Party-list solons in walkout willing to be expelled

Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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How much does US value RP friendship?

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

JUST HOW much is the price of friendship?

To cap the state visit of US President George W. Bush on Saturday, the US Embassy in Manila released figures, which measure in dollar terms the benefits that the Philippines is getting from its military and trade alliance with the world's superpower.

The embassy says that the Philippines is

HOW MUCH/ A9

PRESIDENT Macapagal is flanked by Thai Justice Minister Pongthep Thepkanjana and a security official as she arrives at the Royal Thai Air Force terminal in Bangkok to attend the Apec summit. AFP

Palace: Bush visit boosts GMA poll bid

Execs claim US president hair short of endorsement

By Juliet Javellana and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

A DAY after George W. Bush's eight-hour state visit, Malacañang officials fell all over themselves to say the US president had all but endorsed President Macapagal-Arroyo's candidacy.

One made special mention of an interview Bush gave on Oct. 14 at the White House to government TV reporter Toby Nebrida, when Bush said: "I know my friend is running again, and she's got a strong agenda to run on. (She) has been very strong and I appreciate that and I appreciate my friendship with her."

"Those lines stopped a hair short of an explicit endorsement but others in fact say that that is tantamount to an endorsement," Ms Macapagal's adviser Conrado Limcaoco said.

"We have the US president saying three things: that the Filipino people will make the right decision (in May 2004), that his friend GMA is running, and that she's got a great agenda to run on. Now if that is not support, I don't know how people will understand that," Limcaoco said.

Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao also waxed ecstatic, this time over the successful state visit.

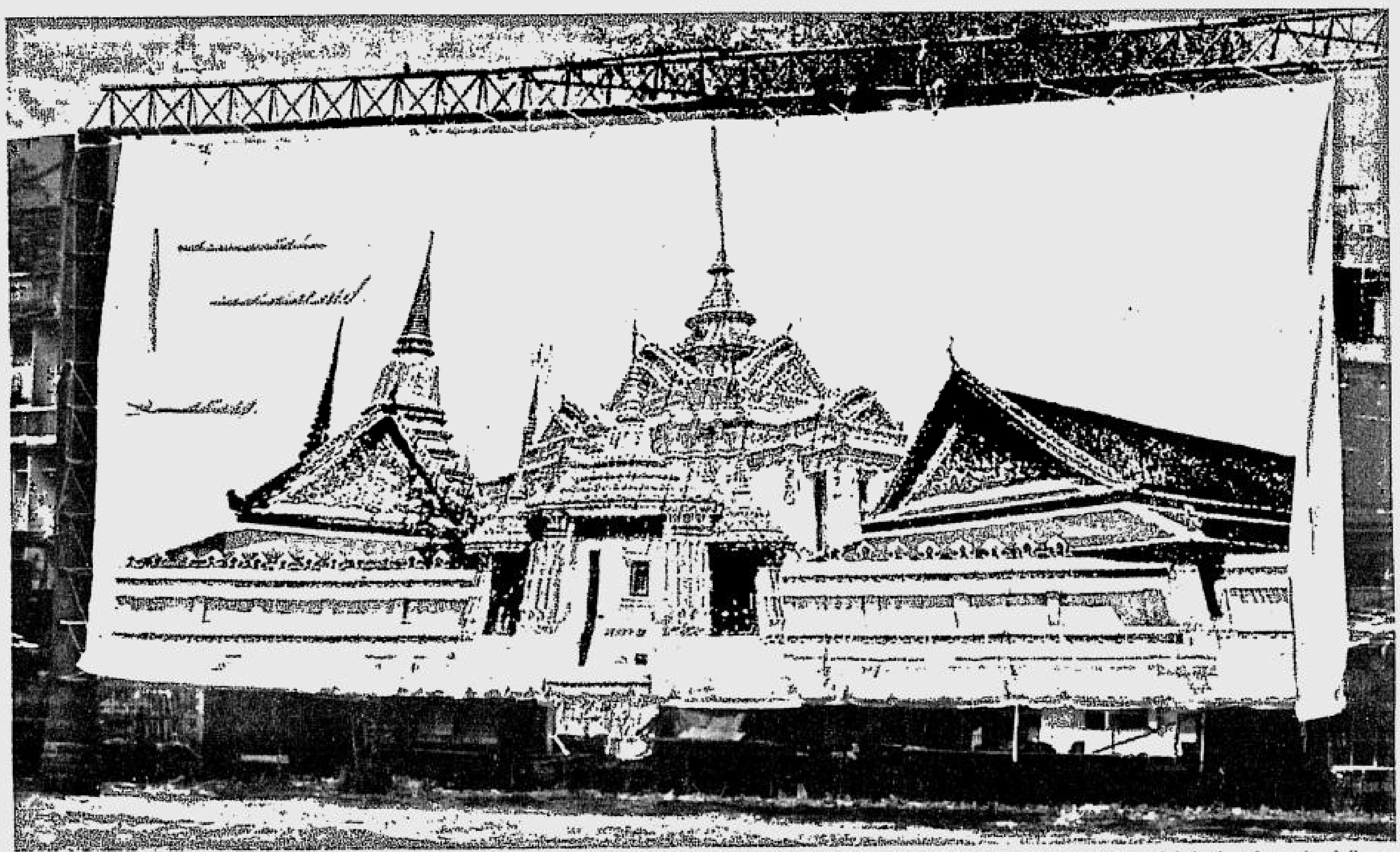
"The medium is the message," Tiglao said. He noted that both the words and the body language of the US president showed his genuine friendship for Ms Macapagal and the Philippines.

"He was not in a hurry to leave. Here (at the state dinner), he went around to shake hands and he was very much at home."

In an interview with Cebu radio station dyLA, another adviser of Ms Macapagal, Heherson Alvarez, interpreted the state visit in terms of the May elections.

"President Bush did not say that you have to vote for (Ms Macapagal) but, in effect, he was endorsing the leadership

PALACE/ A5



PART of a banner measuring more than half a kilometer long and four stories high is unfurled on Bangkok's Chao Phya River to shield an unsightly slum from the delicate eyes of leaders from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) countries while they watch a royal barge procession. *(See story on Page A3)* REUTERS

RP, Thailand sign agreement to set up regional oil hubs

By Clarissa A. Batino
Business

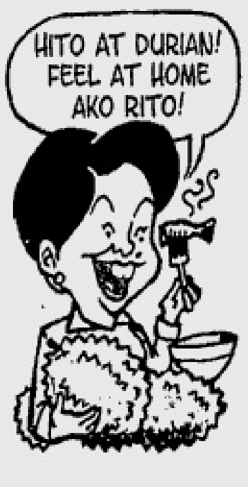
BANGKOK (via PLDT)—The Philippines yesterday moved a step closer to becoming a regional oil player after it signed a cooperation agreement with Thailand to set up giant storage facilities in their respective countries that would challenge Singapore's dominance as Southeast Asia's regional energy trading hub.

"Thailand would like to be a regional petroleum hub and we believe the Philippines can complement this strategy," Perez said after signing the agreement with his Thai counterpart, Prommin Lertsuridej.

"Together we could be complementary to each other on a petroleum hub for the region to compete with another country in the south."

The signing of the agreement coincided with

RP, THAILAND/ A5



HITO AT DURIAN! FEEL AT HOME AKO RITO!

It's crisp-fried catfish for Gloria

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANGKOK—What is President Macapagal-Arroyo's favorite Thai dish?

Two months ago, the Thai government sent each of the 21 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) heads of state a formal letter asking what Thai food they wished to be served during the Oct. 20-21 summit's gala dinner.

Ms Macapagal's choice: *yam pla duk foo* or crisp-fried catfish. Most everyone

IT'S/ A21

Erap yearns for 'little comfort' in Tanay house

By Volt Contreras and Christian Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINE National Police yesterday said deposed President Joseph Estrada's bid to move to his rest house in Tanay wouldn't pose any security problems.

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, Police Security and Protection Office director, said he and his men could effectively secure Estrada at the rest house in case the Sandiganbayan grants the former President's wish.

And what is it exactly that Estrada expects from the transfer? "A little comfort," fond memories and restful isolation.

The 66-year-old former actor told the INQUIRER on Saturday that he will ask the Sandiganbayan to let him stay at the roadside property right next to Camp Capinpin, the Army base he was taken to on Thursday.

And apparently expecting to get what he wants, Estrada said his daughter Jackie Ejercito Lopez has been overseeing "renovations" at the property since "four to five months" ago.

He took exception to reports describing his vacation house as a resort. But he said it had a swimming pool, a covered basketball court, up to 14 guest rooms, and a "small stable for retired racehorses that end up being used in my movies."

As expected, Senate Minority Leader Vi-

ERAP / A20

Bush rebukes July 27 coup attempt in RP

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush, speaking before a joint session of the Philippine Congress on Saturday, rejected military-instigated coups as a contravention of democracy installed by the United States in the Philippines six decades ago.

Bush's speech was the strongest US rebuke to the failed July 27 mutiny mounted by a cabal of junior officers, emphasizing his concern over the Philippines as a showcase of democracy in Asia in the run-up to the presidential election next May.

Even as he described the US-Philippine military alliance as "a rock of stability in the Pacific" in the war on terror, Bush upbraided recurrent military interventions in Philippine politics.

"Sustaining liberty is not always easy," Bush said. "The world saw this last July here in the Philippines. And all free nations rejoiced when the mutiny against

BUSH/ A8

A POSTER of Mother Teresa is held up in the crowd before her beatification ceremony in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican. *(See story in The World, Page A11)* REUTERS

Mother Teresa: Up close and personal

By Teresa Reyes Tunay
Contributor

THE FIRST time I read about Mother Teresa in the early 1980s, I got curious. Why would a nun, already safe, saved and fulfilled in her vocation, still want to leave her congregation in order to carry a heavier cross?

She was outstanding as a missionary nun assigned as a teacher in India. From the window of her relatively comfortable room, she would see sick old people dying unwanted in the streets and be moved by a desire to ease their pain.

While retaining her religious name "Teresa," after the Carmelite saint Therese of the Child Jesus, she shed her old Loreto habit and donned the white sari symbolizing her oneness with the poorest of the poor around her.

In God's own time, Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity. Together with other nuns, they would pick up the sore-infested old folks practically rotting away in Calcutta's streets, bring them home, and care for them until death so they would know the love of Christ and die with dignity.

When I heard that Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity had reached

MOTHER / A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the eastern section. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/20/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'EXPULSION SMALL PRICE TO PAY'

Anti-Bush solons ready to face music

By Delfin T. Mallari, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*, and Carlito Pablo

THEY ARE willing to be expelled.

Two of seven party-list representatives who walked out just before US President George W. Bush addressed Congress on Saturday said expulsion would be a small price to pay for being "peace messengers."

Describing their group's action as being well within the limits of "dignified protest," Representatives JV Bautista of Sanlakas and Renato Magtubo of the Partido ng Manggagawa said in a joint statement: "We will be more than happy to return to being street parliamentarians."

As he left his seat to join the walkout, Bautista unfurled a banner that read, "Mr. Bush, stop your war," but marshals quickly grabbed it from him.

The joint statement said the group merely meant to ask Bush "to stop his wars of aggression and ... bring US troops back to their families." Was that "improper and impolite?" they asked their critics.

Administration congressmen Prospero Nograles and Aurelio Umali earlier called for disciplinary action against the seven lawmakers. The five others were Reps. Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and Lisa Maza of Bayan Muna, and Loretta Ann Rosales and Mario Aguja of Akbayan.

Also in a joint statement, Nograles and Umali said the group should have joined the anti-Bush rallies outside the building instead of "putting up a show inside the hallowed halls of Congress."

They said the walkout was "aimed (at embarrassing) the entire nation," and urged the House leadership to "not let this pass without appropriate disciplinary action."

Bautista and Magtubo didn't think they had "disgraced the peace-loving Filipino people" with their "simple" message. "We did it in solidarity with the urban poor living in front of the House of Representatives whose houses were demolished, the victims of toxic wastes left at the former US bases, the World War II veterans who have not been paid their due, and the workers and farmers who have been ravaged by the unfair trade policies of the United States."

Besides, they said, they missed out on nothing by walking out. "As far as we are concerned, it was not just Laura Bush who did the storytelling but also her husband who regaled the joint session with a fairy tale of Filipino-American friendship."

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez agreed that Bautista should be reprimanded for disorderly conduct for the banner incident. "That should be worth looking into," Gonzalez said in a phone interview yesterday.

But he did not consider the walkout an offense at all. "They didn't want to listen to Bush. What's wrong with that?"

Bautista is undaunted. Given enough time, he said, he would have raised a second banner scolding the US president for being late. "It would have read: 'Mr. Bush, it is impolite to make more than 200 congressmen wait.'"

Bautista and Rosales had both taken offense that the VIP guest arrived at 4:30 p.m., more than an hour past the appointed time. "We were asked to be seated at 2:30 p.m. at the latest," Rosales complained.

She demanded: Would Bush do that to the US Congress?

Toxic victims failed to get Bush's ear

By Norman Bordadora

ENGROSSED in its preparations for the state visit of US President George W. Bush, the government failed to bring to his attention of US President George W. Bush the plight of thousands of victims of toxic wastes left behind by the US in its former military bases in the country.

Stroke victim Jenny Lyn Valencia, 11, and nerve disorder patient Kevin Dave Piring, 5, thus lost the chance to get noticed by the US president who arrived Saturday.

Von Hernandez , chair of the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup and Greenpeace International campaigner, said President Macapagal-Arroyo failed the victims, many of whom are children, when she failed to bring up the toxic wastes with Bush.

"It was dismal. While this government pandered to Bush's so-called war on terror, the victims of US toxic terrorism on Philippine soil remain lamentably forgotten," Hernandez said.

On the day of the Bush visit, the INQUIRER ran a story on the plight of toxic waste victims, many of them children like Jenny and Kevin, and how they and their families need assistance to keep the toxics from further damaging their young bodies.

Kevin's mother, Marites, who now fears having another baby lest it turn out to also suffer from a central nervous system disorder, had asked Ms Macapagal to intercede with Bush for help.

"The government has failed us again. As I've said before, if the victims had been given a fraction of the attention that the government lavished on this eight-hour fiesta, (the victims) would at least begin to have a fighting chance," Hernandez said.

But all may not be lost.

Olola Ann Olib, executive director of the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup, yesterday said she has received reports that Senators Joker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan, Manuel Villar, Ralph Recto and Noli de Castro had taken notice of the plight of the 2,000 or so toxic waste victims.

"We have received some feedback that the Senate will take up the issue. The group of five has reportedly discussed the matter," Olib told the INQUIRER, referring to the cases of deaths and serious ailments caused by the toxic waste left behind at Clark and Subic.

Legal cases are currently pending in the US and the Philippines for the victims and their families to receive compensation from the US agencies concerned and for US authorities to clean up the toxic mess in what once were their top military bases in the Asia Pacific.

"The situation in Clark and Subic is no different from terrorism, especially when the victims are innocent children. If we are sincere in combating terrorism, then we must start confronting the toxic contamination in the former US military bases," said Sen. Sergio Osmeña III.

Osmeña has so far been the biggest advocate of the toxic waste victims in the Senate.

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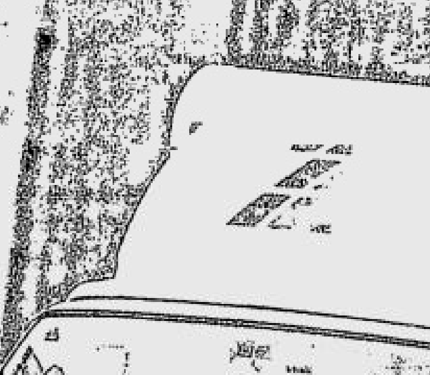

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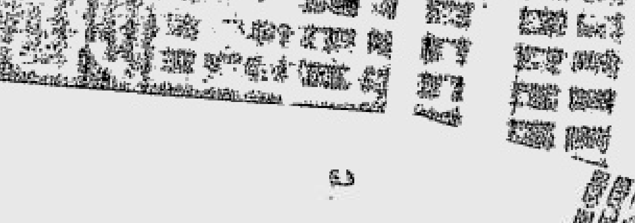
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PNP: We deserve pat on back for keeping Bush state visit safe

THE MUCH-criticized and humiliated Philippine National Police feels finally "vindicated" after its successful handling of security during the eight-hour state visit of US President George W. Bush.

Top police officials yesterday said the PNP and its chief, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., should be commended for ensuring that the brief visit of Bush to Manila last Saturday was trouble-free.

"For once, maybe we deserve a break from all the criticisms we have been swallowing the past few months," said Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, PNP chief for administration.

The fact that nothing untoward happened to Bush and there were no violent clashes between police and protesters throughout the visit should vindicate the PNP, according to Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco.

"What's important is that we were able to show that the Philippines is safe and we can protect the most powerful man in the world," he told the INQUIRER.

According to Aglipay, no less than Bush was heard telling local authorities after his speech in Congress that security was "excellent."

The tight security cordon prevented militant groups from getting near Bush from the time he arrived at Villamor Air Base, to the wreath-laying ceremony at Rizal Park, the speech in Congress, the state dinner at Malacañang until he left for Thailand at 8:34 p.m. Saturday.

"We were firm and decisive in our actions on the ground yet we made sure that civil rights were upheld and respected," said Ebdane, overall chief of Task Force Dubya.

Director Ricardo de Leon, concurrent PNP spokesperson, said police prepared for the visit as early as Oct. 1.

"We prepared an elaborate security plan, including intensive intelligence gathering, and fortunately it worked," he told the INQUIRER. "Somehow, we have redeemed ourselves."

The PNP had come under heavy criticism the past months.

On July 14, Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayyaf rebels literally walked out of Camp Crame, PNP headquarters, under highly mysterious circumstances.

Ebdane'a and the PNP's credibility turned from bad to worse when another Abu Sayyaf detainee went on a shooting rampage two weeks ago, killing three policemen and wounding three others.

In support of the police's contention, militants yesterday admitted they failed to mobilize enough people to join their protest rallies on Saturday due to the numerous police checkpoints.

The Ban Bush! Media Center reported mass actions on Saturday in key cities and provinces nationwide but reports reaching newspaper offices showed the protesters may have been spread rather too thinly over the archipelago.

"We had commitments (that the protesters in Metro Manila would reach) 20,000. But the police and military checkpoints in as far away as Quezon, the Mindoro provinces and central Luzon affected the turnout," said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño.

Casiño told the INQUIRER that the traffic rerouting may have been also a factor. "The re-routing in Metro Manila discouraged the others from coming," he said.

The main throng of demonstrators who reached the Batasan complex was estimated at only 300 as police barricades blocked their path. *Christian V. Esguerra, Norman Bordadora and Alcuin Papa*

Shades of Manila slums in Bangkok

BANGKOK—The Apec summit organizers here have done the Philippines one better, coming up with a half-kilometer long, 20-meter wide banner to hide a slum area near the Chao Phya River.

The banner, which features the image of the Grand Palace, is so big the organizers are thinking of entering it in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The banner, commissioned by Bangkok Gov. Samak Sundaravej, is held up by 13 poles. "A Warm Welcome to Thailand to All Apec Delegates" it reads.

It also adequately hides the Tha Tien slum across from Thailand's Navy headquarters.

The banner recalls the efforts of former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos to hide Manila's squatter colonies by ordering huge billboards built to hide them during her husband Ferdinand Marcos' regime.

Workers here have been working overtime creating instant parks. Thai-style welcome arches have been erected over canals. Parks have been decorated with elephant and swan hedges and purple, pink and violet flowers. Homeowners have been encouraged to display the flags of the 21 Apec members. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GMA wooing me back—Loren

DAVAO CITY—Senate Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda has rebuffed overtures from President Macapagal-Arroyo and other officials of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats to woo her back into the ruling party.

"I'm still enjoying my political independence," Legarda told reporters at a press conference at the Waterfront Insular Hotel here yesterday morning before gracing the opening of Mindanao Friendship Games in Mati, Davao Oriental.

Legarda said Ms Macapagal and House Speaker Jose de Venecia tried to convince her to return to Lakas Saturday night during the state dinner for visiting US President George W. Bush in Malacañang.

"She (Ms Macapagal) told me I understand pero balik ka na, balik ka na (but come back, come back)," Legarda said, adding that De Venecia told her the same thing.

According to Legarda, that was the first time she saw the President since she bolted Lakas 17 days ago.

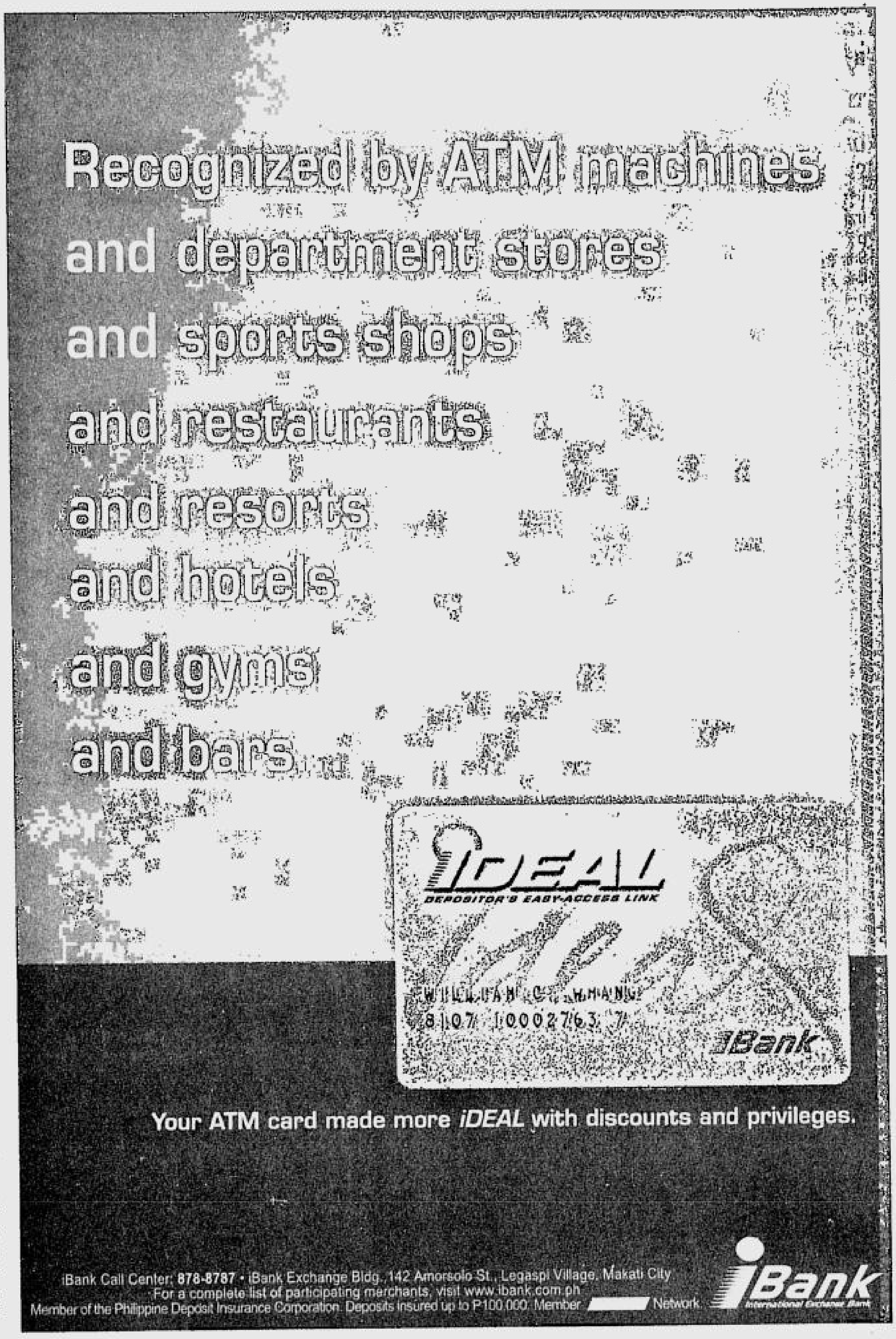
"Friendship goes beyond political infighting and intrigues. I owe a great part of my political career to Lakas. I show my gratitude to them and the kind assistance they showed me for the past five years," she said.

Legarda also said she continued to be courted by various presidential probables who want her to be their running mate in the May 2004 elections.

She identified opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), former education secretary and senator Raul Roco and Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) founder Eduardo Cojuangco as among those who want her to be their running mate.

She admitted receiving strong support from people who want her to run for vice president.

"I've been all over and there is a strong support for me for vice president. It is 50/50 and it will depend on the situation. For now, it is still fluid," Legarda said. *Joselle D.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Not a centavo more for Naia 3, says Mar

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKOK (via PLDT)—The Philippines would not be pressured into paying Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) or any of its partners any more than what they put in to build the new Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

This according to Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II, who heads the inter-agency committee determining "just compensation" for Piatco after the Supreme Court nullified the firm's contract with the government.

"The government is not going to pay more than the cost of the building. Our estimate of just compensation is $350 million and this includes the $90 million the government is willing to advance so we (the government) could (begin to) operate the terminal," Roxas told reporters on the fringes of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit here yesterday.

Piatco, Roxas said, is asking for more than $500 million.

He said the inter-agency committee is willing to submit the valuation of the project to three engineering firms for confirmation but Piatco has not agreed to the plan.

"Fraport is claiming in an international forum a return on its investment. But our position is that not everything that it is claiming to be cost really went into the project," Roxas said.

Fraport is the German airport construction firm that entered into partnership with Piatco to build the air terminal. Their partnership soured after each accused the other of irregularities.

Fraport is reportedly asking for $425 million in unrecovered investments and for damages arising from the Terminal 3 project.

Fraport has taken its case to the World Bank's International Center for Settlements of Investment Disputes, alleging that officials close to Malacañang tried to extort money in exchange for favors.

"Clearly, the Fraport controversy has affected the Philippines negatively. That is why we need to resolve it, but it should be within the bounds of what the Supreme Court provided, which is just compensation," Roxas said.

Garcia stays at GSIS

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia can keep his job.

President Macapagal-Arroyo decided to retain him after the embattled Garcia owned up to mistakes that led to thousands of GSIS members not getting their loans and other benefits.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday said the President met with Garcia on Friday in the presence of Finance Secretary Jose Camacho and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

Bunye said Garcia is expected to issue a statement today admitting that the delays in loan and pension releases were the agency's fault and assuring GSIS members of the fund's sound financial footing.

A Department of Finance review found Garcia and his team guilty of financial mismanagement, which led to speculation that Garcia was on his way out.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

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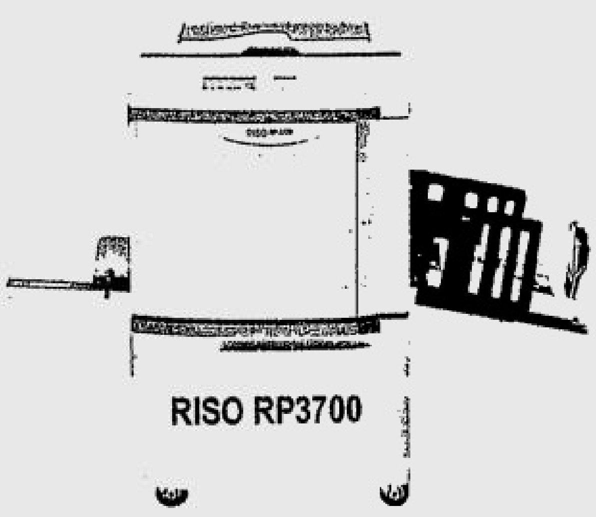

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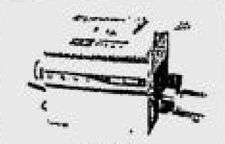
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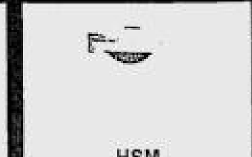
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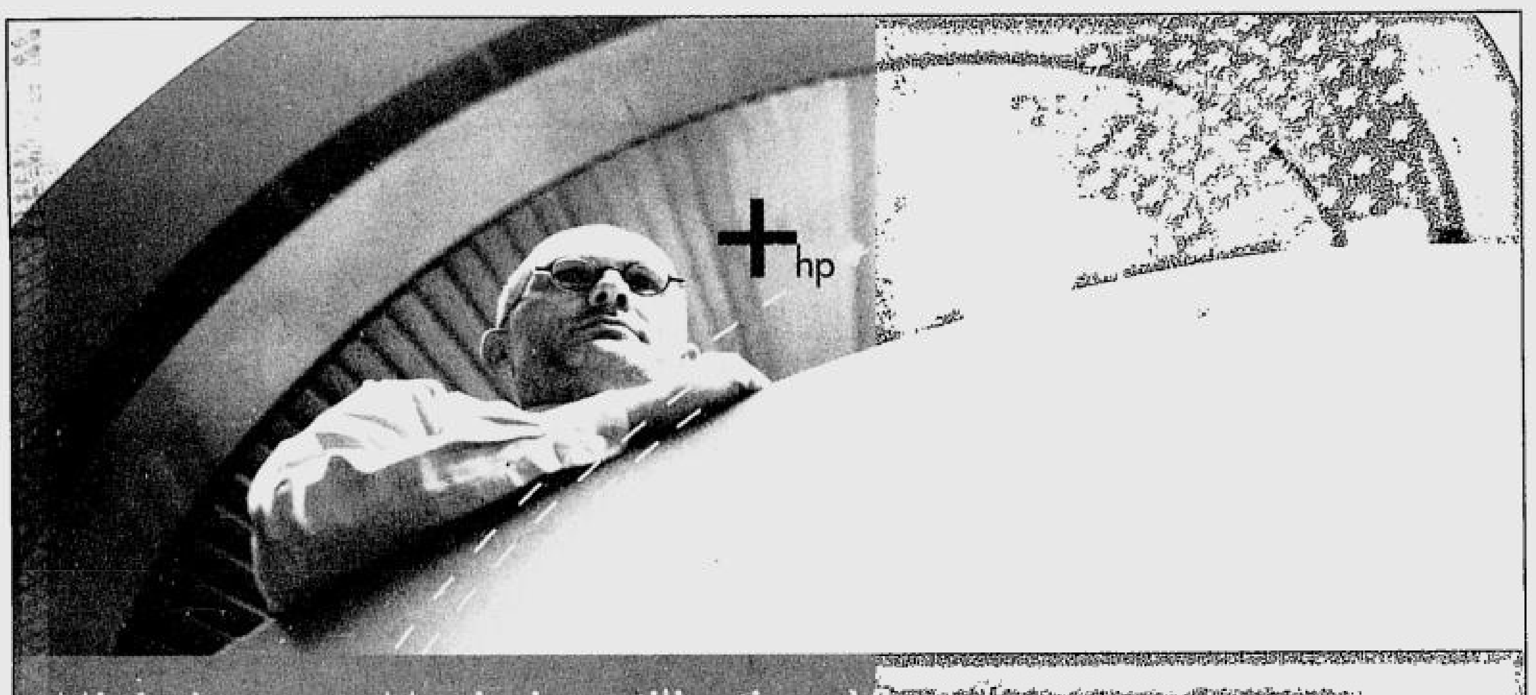

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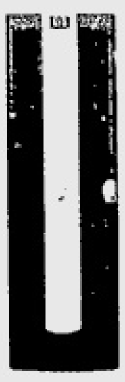

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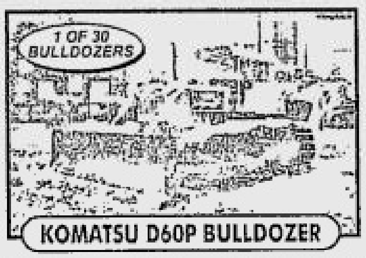

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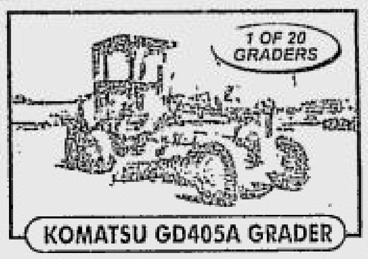

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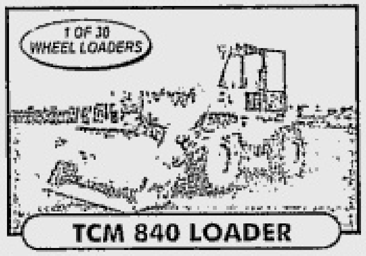

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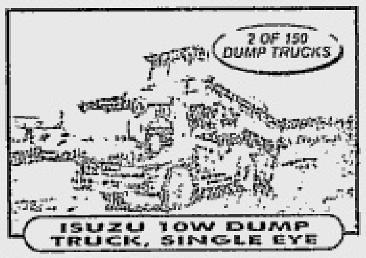

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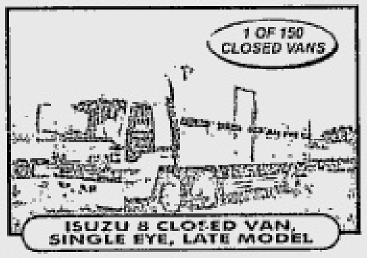

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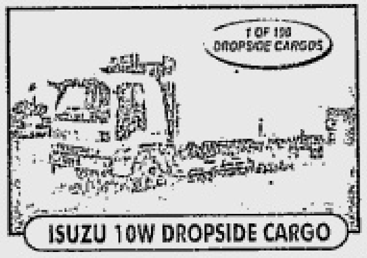

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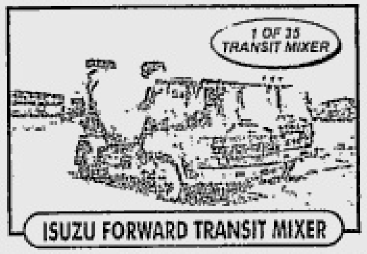

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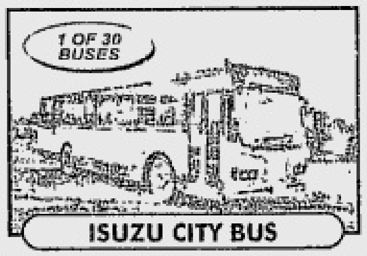

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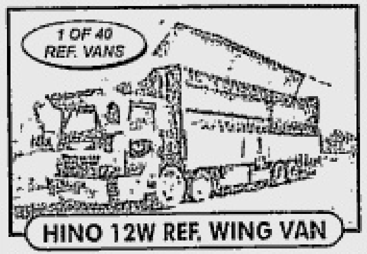

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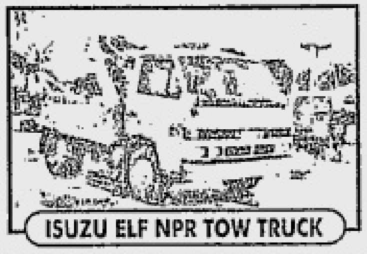
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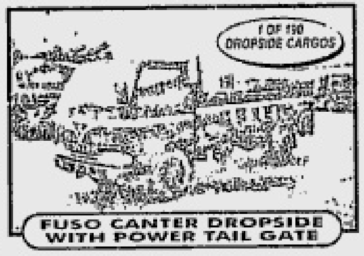

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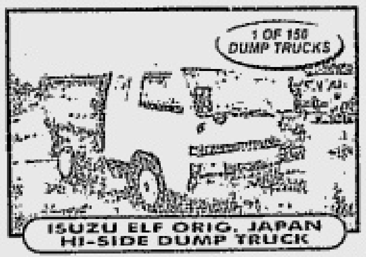

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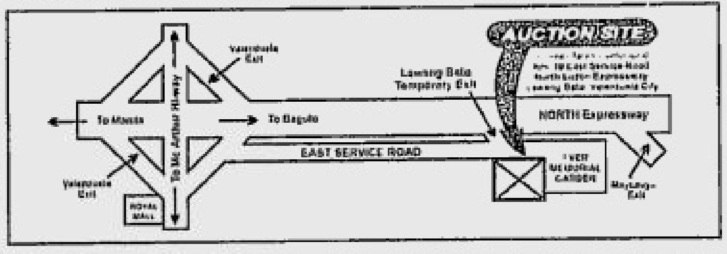

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Palace: Bush visit boosts GMA poll bid

From page A1

and management style of Mrs. (Macapagal) Arroyo," Alvarez said in Filipino. "What does that mean? ... let's give her a go (in the 2004 elections)."

Alvarez noted that Bush's indirect endorsement came when he pushed for the Armed Forces of the Philippines' modernization program and other economic programs that are vital to the Philippines.

Because AFP modernization is a five-year program, he said, this can only mean that Bush wants to see somebody who will stay as president for another five years or more.

Still another presidential adviser, political liaison officer Joey Rufino, said Bush's "subtle or indirect endorsement of the leadership made the President look very positive."

Rufino was quick to add, however, that this was his "personal opinion."

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, in a phone interview from Thailand, where Ms Macapagal is attending the annual Apec summit, said Bush's visit "generated a lot of goodwill" and this would have a "positive effect overall."

But Bunye took pains to emphasize that the Ms Macapagal's candidacy was an internal matter, not influenced by an outside party.

As he brushed aside insinuations that Ms Macapagal would use the state visit to gain political mileage, however, the Malacañang press office issued a statement yesterday which read: "Bush did not say it outright but he feels optimistic about the chances of his friend President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in the 2004 elections."

Limcaoco said Bush's words were enough for Ms Macapagal.

"He did it suavely. He's not really going to say 'I endorse her' or 'vote for her' which is wise for him because he is the president of another country. But the fact that he chose to come here, made those speeches and (promised) assistance and said those two lines before he even left (Washington)—to us the signal is unmistakable," Limcaoco said.

Limcaoco even had an explanation for Bush's seemingly wrong premise that Ms Macapagal was "running again."

He said Bush meant that Ms Macapagal decided to run after declaring in December last year that she would not stand for election in 2004.

During Ms Macapagal's state visit to Washington in May, Bush reportedly encouraged her to change her mind.

Victory assured?

Like the President's advisers, administration congressmen acclaimed the state visit as an "indirect and friendly" endorsement of Ms. Macapagal.

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) even went a step ahead. "*Sigurado na ang eleksyon* (Victory is assured)," he said.

Rep. Monico Puentevella (Lakas, Bacolod City) said the Bush visit "was an indirect and friendly endorsement of President Macapagal who has already decided to join the presidential race next year."

Puentevella noted that the "positive impact" of the Bush visit would be "felt this Christmas season as the economy will certainly perk up."

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez (Lakas, Iloilo City) said the Bush visit was a "reiteration of what has been assumed, that Bush is pleased with the way President Macapagal is running the country."

"In a way, it was (an endorsement of Ms Macapagal's candidacy)," Gonzalez said. "He support's the President's policies."

Asked if the Bush visit was a plus factor for Ms Macapagal's candidacy, Gonzalez said: "As a whole, yes."

Business leaders agreed that Bush's visit was a plus factor for Ms Macapagal's election plans.

"The state visit has allowed the President to establish a relationship with Bush that no other presidential candidate will ever have," said Employers Confederation of the Philippines president Donald Dee.

Fil-Ams

Filipino-Americans in the United States have started mobilizing to support Ms Macapagal's candidacy in 2004, according to the Filipino-American Democratic Empowerment Council.

In a statement, Fadec president Jose Caedo said that two of the biggest Filipino-American organizations were in the forefront of this effort: the National Federation of Fil-Am Associations headed by prominent business leader Loida Nicolas Lewis and the National Fil-Am Council of Dennis Normandry.

They will formally endorse Ms Macapagal's candidacy when the Global Filipino Network Convention is held in Manila on Dec. 15-16.

With reports from Carlito Pablo; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

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RP, Thailand sign agreement

From page A1

the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Thai capital for the 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. She was accompanied by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, several Cabinet officials and heads of local governments.

Perez said the cooperation pact would enhance business opportunities for both countries in the energy sector.

Under the memorandum of understanding, the two nations agreed to set up an eight-member committee to study exploration, production and trading of oil and gas businesses in their countries, Perez said.

The two countries could share oil storage facilities and provide emergency oil supplies to each other if needed. "If there is a shortage in Thailand, the Philippines can supply to Thailand, and vice-versa," Perez said.

He said the two countries could also sell oil to Taiwan, Hong Kong, China and Vietnam.

Perez said the Philippines wanted to develop a major oil storage facility at Subic Bay, a former US military base that can accommodate 2.3 million barrels of oil. Other big storage facilities in the Philippines are in Batangas and Bataan.

Thailand, on the other hand, plans to make full use of the oil depot at its eastern town of Si Racha. The 4.8-million-barrel depot at Si Racha is the largest of four main oil storage facilities in Thailand.

A delegation from Thailand is planning to visit the Philippines next month to follow up on the energy cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Privatization

Thailand, which uses natural gas to produce 70 percent of its electricity, is also looking to bid for half the Philippine government's 10-percent stake in the Malampaya natural gas field, the country's biggest energy project.

The $4.5-billion field, off the western island of Palawan, is the country's largest single investment. It has 2.7 trillion cubic feet of gas and 85 million barrels of condensate and has drawn interest from Asian investors, including Indonesia's Pertamina and Thailand's energy conglomerate PTT PCL.

In August, Thailand unveiled an ambitious plan to take on Singapore's oil trading dominance, initially by offering tax incentives for international traders to export bunker oil from the country.

Other prime energy infrastructure schemes included a launch of an export processing zone for bunker fuel business and a $700-million trans-peninsula "land bridge" in southern Thailand—a 240-km, six-lane highway with a gas and oil pipeline and a railway in the middle and tank farms on both sides.

Perez said he also hoped state-owned Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) and its affiliated Electricity Generating PCL could take part in his country's privatization of the electricity industry.

"We hope Egat and Egco can participate in the upcoming privatization of the power sector, due by the end of this year or early next year," Perez said.

While the Philippines and Thailand have agreed to cooperate in the energy sector, the two countries seem to disagree on the pace of trade and investment liberalization in the region.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II indicated that the Philippines was not likely to support Thailand's proposal to accelerate by five years a 1994 Apec agreement for full trade and investment liberalization among its 21 member states by 2020. *With a report from Reuters*

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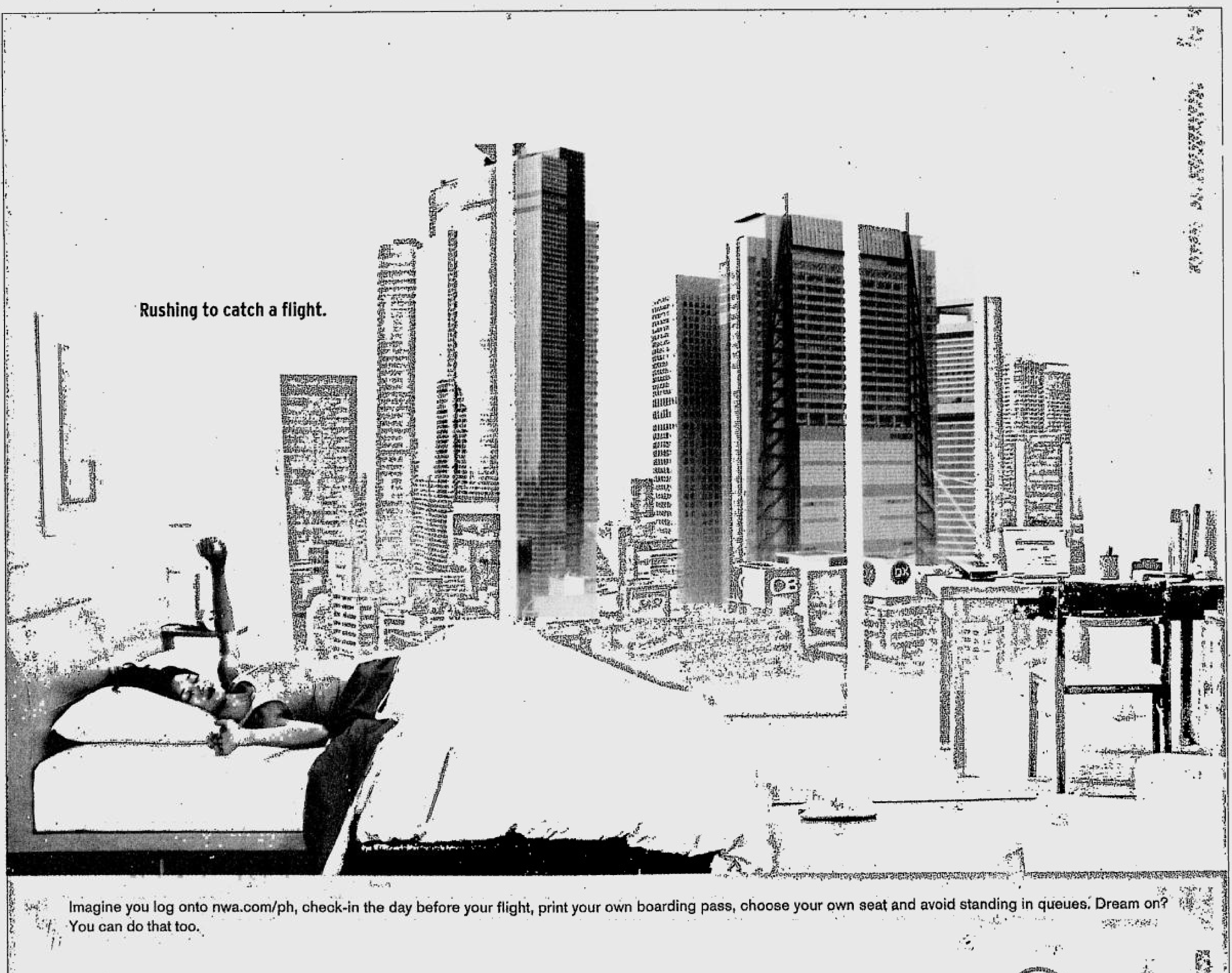

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MILF prepares people for peace talks

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has started consultations with community leaders in preparation for the resumption of peace talks with the government.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, said all sectors the organization is representing in its quest for peace in Mindanao would be consulted.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the MILF central committee is convinced a final peace agreement will be forged within the year or at least during this administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The consultation will involve various sectors of Bangsamoro society, particularly the military wing, traditional and political leaders, indigenous inhabitants, professionals, religious, businessmen, farmers, labor groups, women and youth," Jaafar said in a statement.

Beginning today, MILF leaders will also be meeting with the military wing to make arrangements for the visit of the Malaysian-led third party foreign observer team which is coming to the conflict areas in Mindanao.

Jaafar said the consultation process was necessary because "we want the Moro people to participate in crafting their future."

"We have also scheduled a consultation meeting with the leaders of the indigenous inhabitants to ascertain their views and concepts on the ancestral domain issue," Jaafar, who once headed the MILF peace panel, said.

A draft peace agreement has been forwarded by the government to the MILF for approval and eventual signing.

Importers tagged in smear drive

LARGE food importers are behind the smear campaign against Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr., a Department of Agriculture official said yesterday.

DA lawyer Benjamin Tabios said food importers who stood to lose millions due to the government's drive for self-sufficiency and food security raised the issue of conflict of interest against Lorenzo.

"All these accusations were initiated by vested individuals and firms who were hurt by the efforts of Secretary Lorenzo to protect the interests of small vegetable and rice farmers," Tabios said.

In a privilege speech last week, House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla accused Lorenzo of conflict of interest, saying the DA chief continued to actively market the products of the Lorenzo family-owned Lapanday Agricultural Corp. to the detriment of the small farmers.

"We welcome the investigation of these charges because we are confident that would prove such charges to be unfounded and totally baseless," Tabios said. *Norman Bordadora*

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that Mr. Wong Kam On, a *British National* (Overseas), has lost his ALIEN CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION with Serial No. E-193753 issued in his favor by the Philippines' Bureau of Immigration on January 3, 2001.

This notice is being made in connection with Mr. On's application for the issuance of a duplicate original copy of his aforesaid lost ACR.

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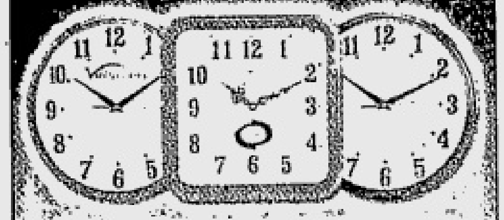
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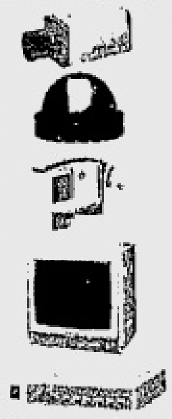
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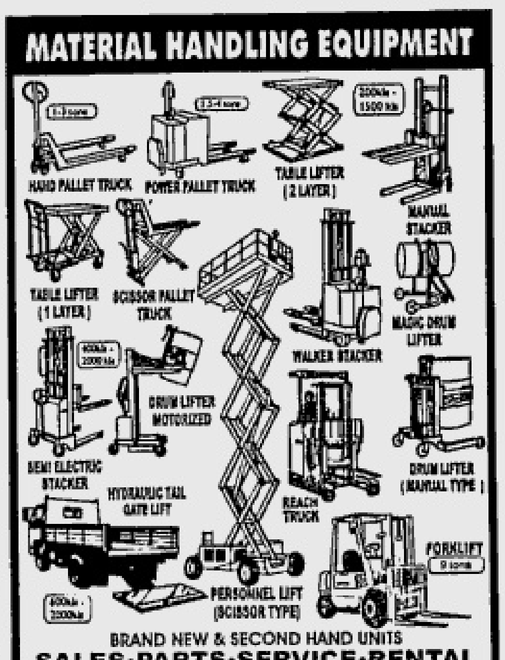
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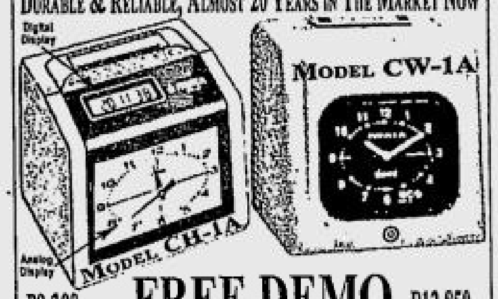

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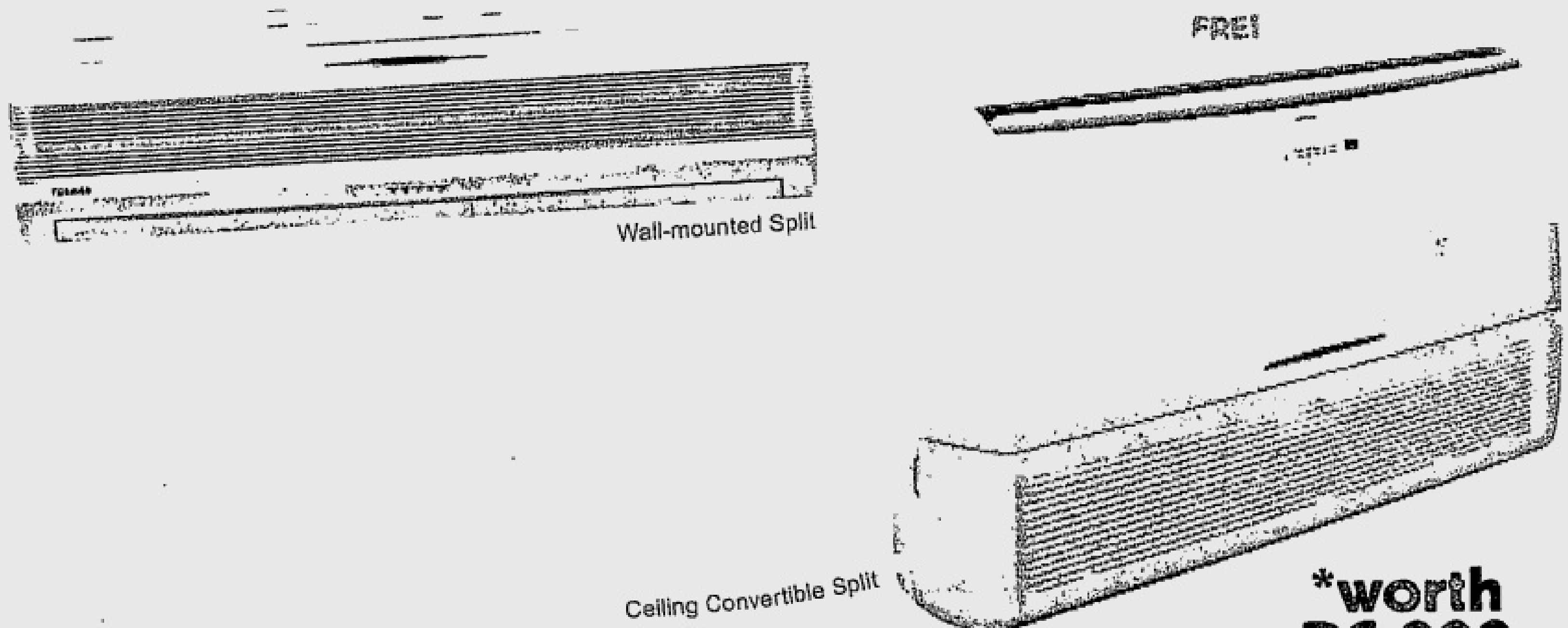

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Bush rebukes July 27 coup attempt in RP

From page A1

this government failed. People of this land fought too hard, too long to surrender your freedom to the conspiracy."

These words drew applause and were heard as well by Sen. Gregorio Honasan, one of those who attended the joint session and who had been linked by the government as the alleged coup ringleader.

Bush did not spare words to express disapproval over military interventionism. "All of you in this chamber are protectors of Philippine democracy, charged with upholding the legacy of Jose Rizal and Manuel Quezon," he said. "Members of the Philippine Armed Forces are commissioned to fight for freedom, not to contend for power."

"I'm certain that in the coming elections," he said, "this nation will show its deep commitment to democracy and continue to inspire people throughout Asia."

Bush reminded Filipinos of the political cultural background against which democracy was established in the transition period that prepared the country for self-government by Filipinos, culminating in the inauguration of the Commonwealth government in 1935.

"Democracy always has skeptics. Some say the culture of the Middle East will not sustain the institutions of democracy," he said.

"The same doubts were once expressed about the culture of Asia. These doubts were proven wrong nearly six decades ago, when the Republic of the Philippines became the first democratic nation in Asia. Since then, liberty has reached nearly every shore of the Western Pacific. In this region of the world, and in every other, let no one doubt the power of democracy because freedom is the desire of every human heart."

The expression of concerns over Philippine democracy and military adventurism was a *tour de force* from the main theme of his speech, which heavily accented the war on terror. Bush's six-nation swing to Asia highlights two main themes, the war on terror and the pursuit of bilateral free trade agreements following the collapse of the global trade liberalization talks in Cancun, Mexico.

Manila was Bush's second stop. On Friday, he visited Tokyo where he received the most significant military and financial aid commitment from any Asian nation for the US-led peacekeeping and reconstruction efforts in Iraq, where American occupation forces have come under stepped up guerrilla attacks from Iraqi irregulars helped by Islamic militants crossing into Iraq.

Only in the Philippines was Bush scheduled to speak before Congress to outline the contours of the US consolidation of its alliance with Asian countries in the war on terror, following the unraveling of the transatlantic alliance between the United States and its European allies (notably France and Germany) over Bush's doctrine of preemptive strikes and unilateral decisions in waging wars against countries he has designated as threats to the United States and the democratic world.

Confirming the warmth in his relationship with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Bush said her visit to Washington had been the first from an Asian leader during his administration. "Today, we are honored to visit America's oldest ally in Asia, and one of America's most valued friends in the world," he told Congress.

Bush said the Philippines and the United States "are joined by more than a market, even more than an alliance, bonded by the belief in the rule of law" and that these principles "are under attack in many cultures in many parts of the world."

"A new totalitarian threat has risen against civilization, like other militarists and fascists before them, the terrorists and their allies seek to control every mind and soul," he said.

"They seek to spread chaos and fear, intimidate whole societies and silence all opposition ... The terrorists will continue their missions of murder and suicide until they're stopped, and we will stop them."

"Every nation in Asia and across the world now faces choice," Bush said, repeating the theme underlining the coalition he has been building to combat terror.

"Nations that choose to support terror are complicit in a war against civilization. Nations that they to ignore terror and hope it will only strike others are deluding themselves, undermining our common defense, and inviting a future catastrophic violence. Nations that choose to fight terror are defending their own safety and the safety of free people everywhere."

Referring to Philippine-American cooperation in the war on terror, Bush said Filipinos had known bombings and kidnapping and "brutal murders of the innocent."

Citing the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao where Washington has deployed American military advisers and advanced technological weapons to aid the Philippine military, Bush said: "We will work together, along with our friends in Southeast Asia, to dismantle the Jemaah Islamiyah—the terrorist network, as well as other groups that traffic in violence and chaos."

Bush said Washington was supporting Manila's campaign to establish lasting peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. He said that before his death, Salamat Hashim, a key MILF leader, had written him a letter professing his rejection of terrorism.

Bush then called on the MILF to reject terror and to move forward with political negotiations now brokered by Malaysia. He held out the prospect that when a lasting peace is established, the United States "is prepared to provide development assistance to Mindanao."

Then he indicated that the backbone of the campaign against terror, is the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"Philippine security forces have the right and the duty to protect local communities and to defeat terrorism in every form," he said.

In talks between Bush and Ms Macapagal earlier in the day, the two leaders agreed to update defense cooperation and completed a comprehensive review of Philippine security requirements announced in May. Ms Macapagal had committed to a five-year plan to modernize and reform the Philippine military—a program clearly designed to undercut grievances over corruption that were an important cause of the failed coup.

Bush said Washington would provide technical assistance and field expertise and funding, but emphasized that "success requires more than American assistance. The members of this body must invest in the Philippine military to ensure that our forces have resources needed to win the war on terror, and to protect the Filipino people."

Bush's rebuke of the military's political interventions followed the conclusion of the Feliciano Commission inquiry into the July 27 coup that the rebel seizure of Oakwood was not a "spontaneous" rising. The mutiny, according to the commission, was not sparked by military grievances but was aimed at grabbing power.

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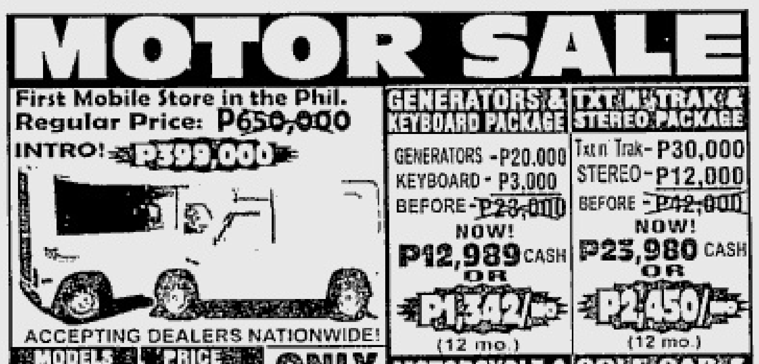
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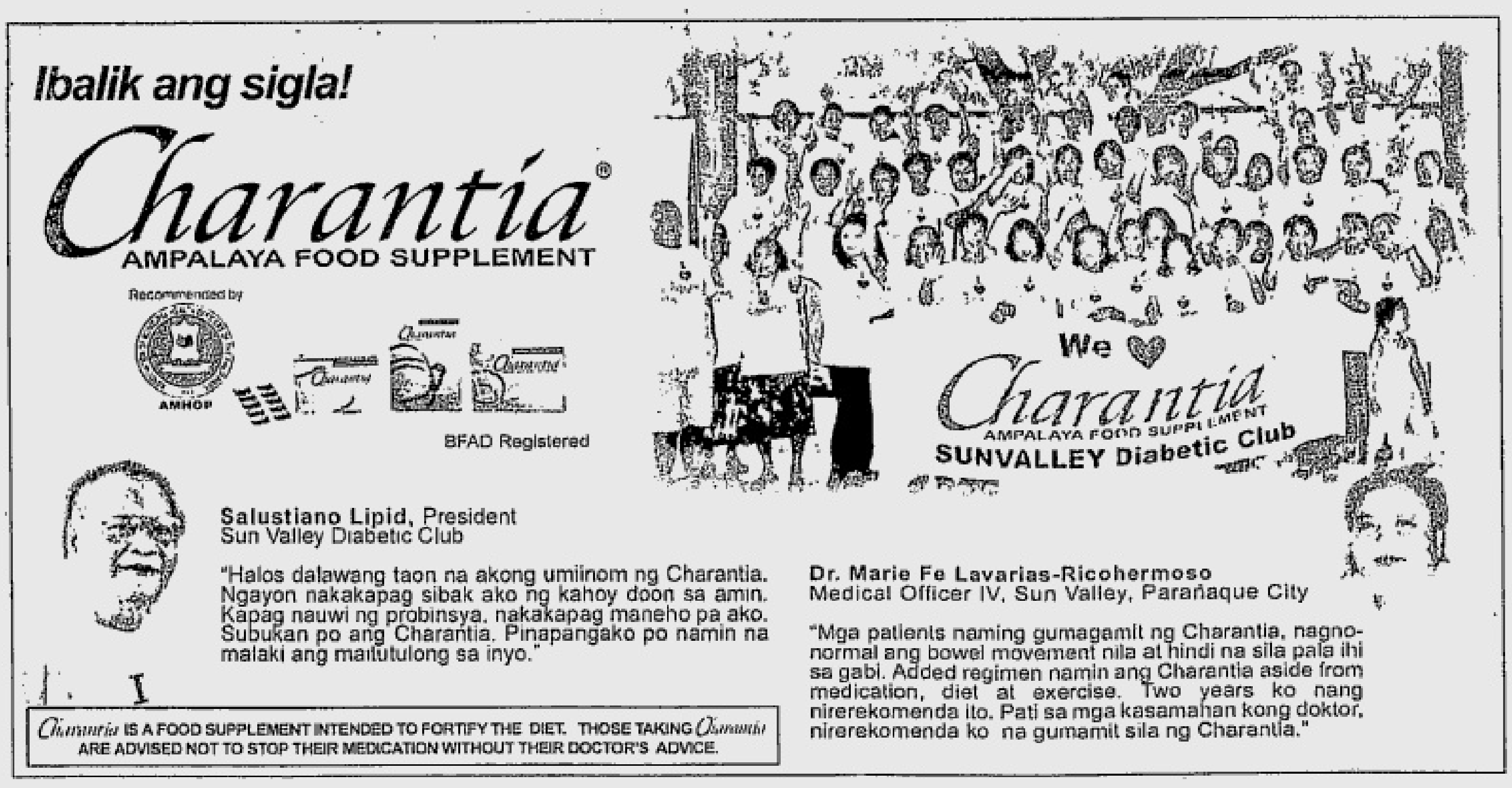
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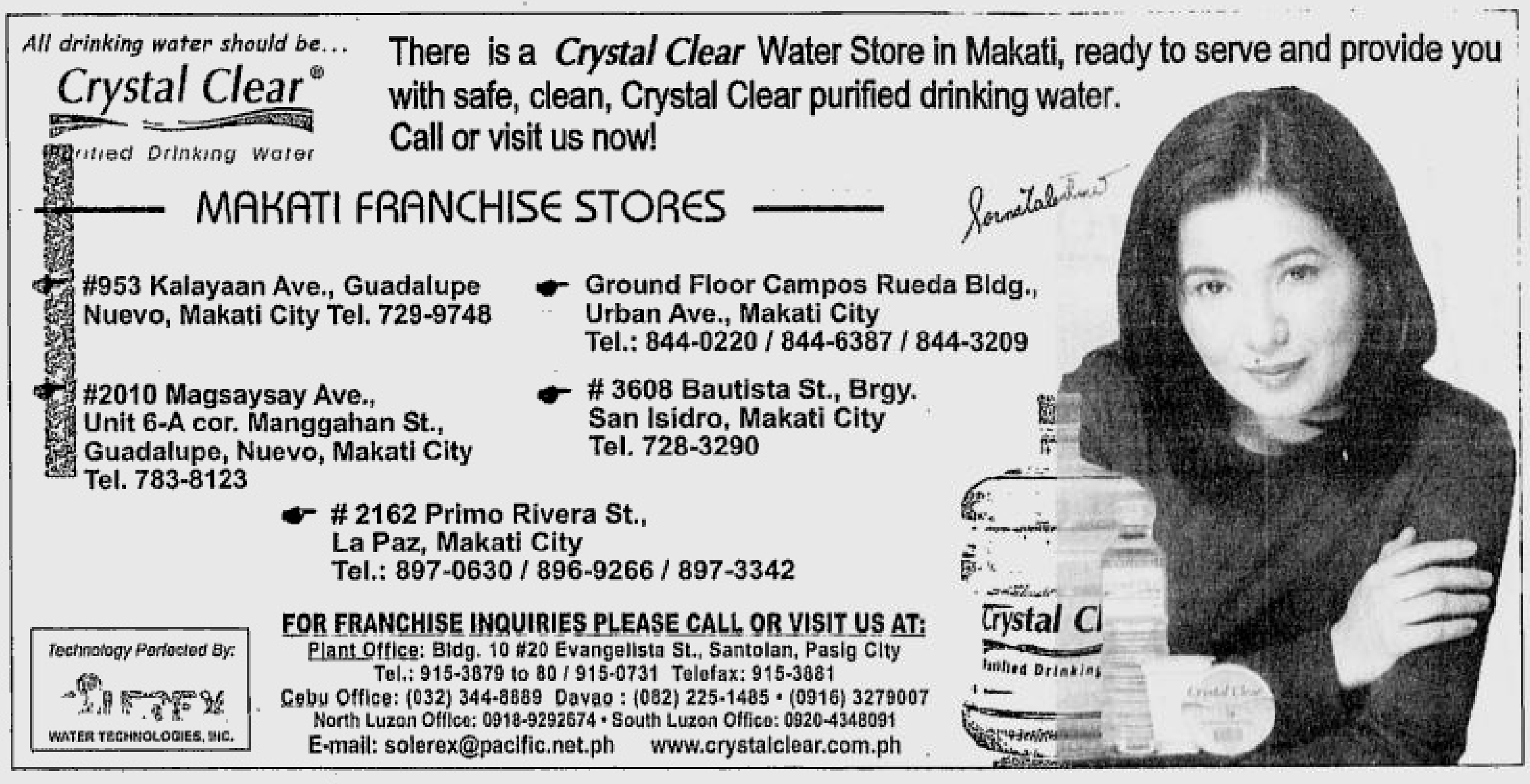
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Bush rebukes July 27 coup attempt in RP

From page A1

this government failed. People of this land fought too hard, too long to surrender your freedom to the conspiracy."

These words drew applause and were heard as well by Sen. Gregorio Honasan, one of those who attended the joint session and who had been linked by the government as the alleged coup ringleader.

Bush did not spare words to express disapproval over military interventionism. "All of you in this chamber are protectors of Philippine democracy, charged with upholding the legacy of Jose Rizal and Manuel Quezon," he said. "Members of the Philippine Armed Forces are commissioned to fight for freedom, not to contend for power."

"I'm certain that in the coming elections," he said, "this nation will show its deep commitment to democracy and continue to inspire people throughout Asia."

Bush reminded Filipinos of the political cultural background against which democracy was established in the transition period that prepared the country for self-government by Filipinos, culminating in the inauguration of the Commonwealth government in 1935.

"Democracy always has skeptics. Some say the culture of the Middle East will not sustain the institutions of democracy," he said.

"The same doubts were once expressed about the culture of Asia. These doubts were proven wrong nearly six decades ago, when the Republic of the Philippines became the first democratic nation in Asia. Since then, liberty has reached nearly every shore of the Western Pacific. In this region of the world, and in every other, let no one doubt the power of democracy because freedom is the desire of every human heart."

The expression of concerns over Philippine democracy and military adventurism was a *tour de force* from the main theme of his speech, which heavily accented the war on terror. Bush's six-nation swing to Asia highlights two main themes, the war on terror and the pursuit of bilateral free trade agreements following the collapse of the global trade liberalization talks in Cancun, Mexico.

Manila was Bush's second stop. On Friday, he visited Tokyo where he received the most significant military and financial aid commitment from any Asian nation for the US-led peacekeeping and reconstruction efforts in Iraq, where American occupation forces have come under stepped up guerrilla attacks from Iraqi irregulars helped by Islamic militants crossing into Iraq.

Only in the Philippines was Bush scheduled to speak before Congress to outline the contours of the US consolidation of its alliance with Asian countries in the war on terror, following the unraveling of the transatlantic alliance between the United States and its European allies (notably France and Germany) over Bush's doctrine of preemptive strikes and unilateral decisions in waging wars against countries he has designated as threats to the United States and the democratic world.

Confirming the warmth in his relationship with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Bush said her visit to Washington had been the first from an Asian leader during his administration. "Today, we are honored to visit America's oldest ally in Asia, and one of America's most valued friends in the world," he told Congress.

Bush said the Philippines and the United States "are joined by more than a market, even more than an alliance, bonded by the belief in the rule of law" and that these principles "are under attack in many cultures in many parts of the world."

"A new totalitarian threat has risen against civilization, like other militarists and fascists before them, the terrorists and their allies seek to control every mind and soul," he said.

"They seek to spread chaos and fear, intimidate whole societies and silence all opposition ... The terrorists will continue their missions of murder and suicide until they're stopped, and we will stop them."

"Every nation in Asia and across the world now faces choice," Bush said, repeating the theme underlining the coalition he has been building to combat terror.

"Nations that choose to support terror are complicit in a war against civilization. Nations that they to ignore terror and hope it will only strike others are deluding themselves, undermining our common defense, and inviting a future catastrophic violence. Nations that choose to fight terror are defending their own safety and the safety of free people everywhere."

Referring to Philippine-American cooperation in the war on terror, Bush said Filipinos had known bombings and kidnapping and "brutal murders of the innocent."

Citing the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao where Washington has deployed American military advisers and advanced technological weapons to aid the Philippine military. Bush said: "We will work together, along with our friends in Southeast Asia, to dismantle the Jemaah Islamiyah—the terrorist network, as well as other groups that traffic in violence and chaos."

Bush said Washington was supporting Manila's campaign to establish lasting peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. He said that before his death, Salamat Hashim, a key MILF leader, had written him a letter professing his rejection of terrorism.

Bush then called on the MILF to reject terror and to move forward with political negotiations now brokered by Malaysia. He held out the prospect that when a lasting peace is established, the United States "is prepared to provide development assistance to Mindanao."

Then he indicated that the backbone of the campaign against terror, is the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"Philippine security forces have the right and the duty to protect local communities and to defeat terrorism in every form," he said.

In talks between Bush and Ms Macapagal earlier in the day, the two leaders agreed to update defense cooperation and completed a comprehensive review of Philippine security requirements announced in May. Ms Macapagal had committed to a five-year plan to modernize and reform the Philippine military—a program clearly designed to undercut grievances over corruption that were an important cause of the failed coup.

Bush said Washington would provide technical assistance and field expertise and funding, but emphasized that "success requires more than American assistance. The members of this body must invest in the Philippine military to ensure that our forces have resources needed to win the war on terror, and to protect the Filipino people."

Bush's rebuke of the military's political interventions followed the conclusion of the Feliciano Commission inquiry into the July 27 coup that the rebel seizure of Oakwood was not a "spontaneous" rising. The mutiny, according to the commission, was not sparked by military grievances but was aimed at grabbing power.

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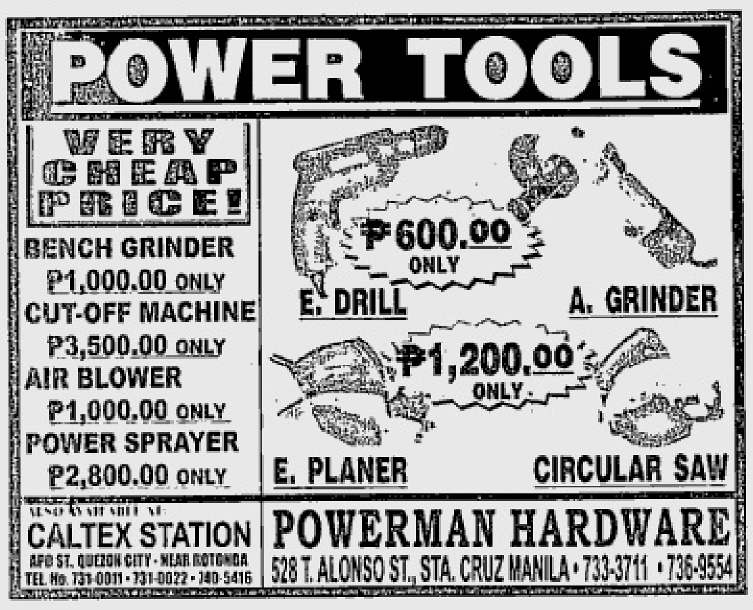
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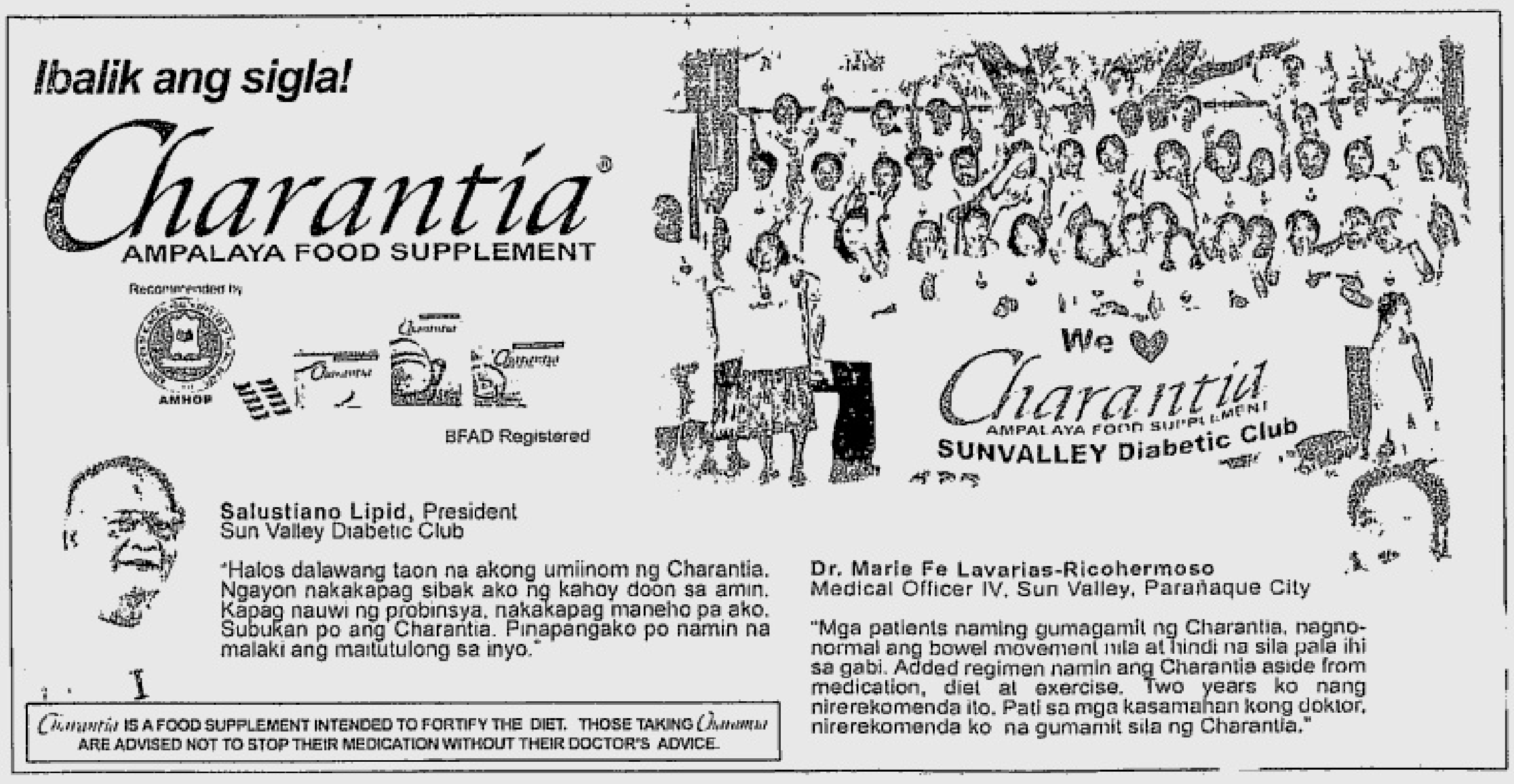
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How much does US value RP friendship?

From page A1

the biggest beneficiary of US military aid in Southeast Asia. US military aid to the Philippines increased from $38.03 million in 2001 to $94.50 million in 2002 and to $114.46 million this year, according to a fact sheet prepared by the Joint US Military Assistance Group (Jusmag).

The Jusmag ranked the Philippines as the world's fourth biggest recipient of US foreign military financing, and the world's second—but Asia's biggest—beneficiary of the US International Military Exercise and Training Program.

In his address before the joint session of the Philippine Congress on Saturday, Bush said Washington would provide technical assistance, field expertise and funding to a five-year plan to modernize and reform the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Separate figures released by the US Embassy show that US government assistance and payments to the Philippines in fiscal year 2003 totaled $808.2 million.

From January to August, US agricultural imports from the Philippines amounted to $488 million while US agricultural exports to the Philippines totaled $390 million only, giving the Philippines a $98.9-million balance in agricultural trade.

Of the $808.2 million in US assistance and payments, $505,498 or 62.5 percent was in the form of direct assistance and payments. Indirect assistance and payments accounted for $302,732 or 37.5 percent.

Benefits paid to the Philippines and its citizens accounted for the biggest share (33 percent) of the assistance and payments, followed by export credit guarantees (27 percent), technical assistance (12 percent) and grants (11 percent).

Counterterrorism and law enforcement programs received only one percent of US assistance and payments. But the Bush administration intends to pour $10 million into the Philippines this year to enhance its anti-terrorism capabilities.

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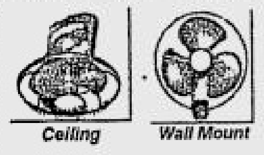

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

New Bolivia leader appeals for calm

BOLIVIAN President Carlos Mesa Gisbert (left) is kissed by an Aymara Indian supporter as he visits the city of El Alto, on the outskirts of La Paz, where dozens of residents died in the past week in clashes with Army soldiers, Oct. 18. REUTERS

EL ALTO, Bolivia—Bolivia's new president ventured into the slum city at the heart of the country's popular revolt on Saturday, appealing for calm one day after his predecessor quit in the face of protests that claimed more than 70 lives.

President Carlos Mesa, elevated from vice president after President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada stepped down on Friday, received a rousing welcome in El Alto, a ramshackle community of about 700,000 people overlooking La Paz.

"Never again should we lose a life through battles with the government," Mesa, addressing his first public rally since taking office, told a cheering crowd of about 1,000 people. The throng included old women in traditional bowler hats and young men waving the multicolored Inca flag.

Under the constitution Mesa can serve until 2007 but he has asked Congress to call early elections. He says his "gigantic task" is leading an interim government that prevents South America's poorest nation "sinking to the bottom."

He said on Saturday "there would be no major changes" to Sanchez de Lozada's US-backed drive to wipe out coca leaf crops—the raw material for cocaine. But he pledged to negotiate with the peasant farmers who blame the policy for deepening their poverty.

El Alto was the focus of Indian-led protests against free-market policies that opponents say give Bolivia's natural gas resources to foreigners. Locals called the uprising, in which 74 people were killed, the "gas war."

Mesa, a respected journalist and political independent, appears to have escaped the resentment directed at his predecessor, a free-market advocate and US ally in the anti-drug war.

Despite his role as Sanchez de Lozada's deputy and his membership of the traditional European-descended elite, Mesa has won at least a brief respite from protesters willing to give him time to prove himself.

Evo Morales, an Indian leader who came second last year in presidential elections and who symbolizes the Indians' organizational strength, said: "I ask for calm ... until the government gets organized and meets the demands of society."

Mesa faces major obstacles—designated by Congress to serve out the rest of Sanchez de Lozada's term, he has little electoral legitimacy and no formal political party support.

He promised to address Indian grievances, including holding a referendum on plans to export natural gas to the United States. Indian groups say the project will only benefit neighboring Chile, the United States and foreign investors.

In La Paz, for the first time in a week, buses ran on Saturday, flights took off and people shopped for groceries as Indians lifted a siege of the city that had cut off food and fuel.

"I nearly got run over today. I forgot what it was like to have traffic on the roads," said Felipe Huaman, a mechanic who returned to his shop in the city center after a week.

Sanchez de Lozada was the fourth South American president to have been forced out of office by popular protests since 2000, joining former leaders of Ecuador, Argentina and Peru.

Reuters

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 20, 2003
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 4:20-25
Gospel: Lk 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd spoke to Jesus, "Master, tell my brother to share with me the family inheritance." He replied, "My friend, who has appointed me as your judge or your attorney?" Then Jesus said to the people, "Be on your guard and avoid every kind of greed, for even though you have many possessions, it is not that which gives you life."

And Jesus continued with this story, "There was a rich man and his land had produced a good harvest. He thought: 'What shall I do? For I am short of room to store my harvest.' So this is what he planned: 'I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones to store all this grain, which is my wealth. Then I may say to myself: My friend, you have a lot of good things put by for many years. Rest, eat, drink and enjoy yourself.' But God said to him: 'You fool! This very night your life will be taken from you; tell me who shall get all you have put aside?' This is the lot of the one who stores up riches instead of amassing for God."

Commentary

"Be on your guard and avoid every kind of greed, for even though you have many possessions, it is not that which gives you life." The Chinese believe in cycles of wealth. Usually the first generation from poverty worked very hard to save and earn wealth. The second generation reaps the harvest and enjoys while the third generation will spend and consume everything. And the new cycle begins. Possessions are transitory, so we cannot rely on them. If they are taken away, what kind of person does it make us? Will people still look at us the same way without our status symbols, expensive clothes or decent home? Our value cannot be measured by our possessions. For Jesus being is more important than having. Seek first the kingdom of God and all others shall be added unto you.

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Apec leaders converge on Bangkok

BANGKOK—Leaders from 21 Pacific Rim nations including US President George W. Bush converged on Thailand's heavily guarded capital Sunday for a summit to be dominated by terrorism and the collapse of global trade talks.

Bush, who is on a six-nation tour of Asia and Australia, has signaled he will use the two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit beginning Monday to shore up alliances in the battle against terrorism.

"I think security is on the agenda. What I'm trying to do, and will do, is to remind people that the war on terror goes on," he said during a brief state visit to the Philippines on Saturday.

"The easiest thing to do is to think the war on terror is over with," he said. "I just will remind people that, in the view of the United States, the United States is still threatened, and our friends are threatened, and therefore, we must continue to cooperate."

US Secretary of State Colin Powell set the tone at a ministerial meeting Saturday by calling for Apec leaders to issue a "a strong statement against terrorism" and made clear that "security and economics are inseparable," his spokesperson said.

The deadlocked crisis over North Korea's nuclear ambitions is also expected to be on the agenda, with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun saying Sunday that he expected "tense discussions" on the topic.

Bush, who arrived here late Saturday, said the United States has no intention of invading North Korea but that signing a non-aggression pact with Pyongyang was "off the table."

Japan is negotiating a separate statement calling on Pyongyang to disarm, which it wants Apec members to issue at the conclusion of their summit.

While the US will ensure that security issues top the agenda, the urgent need for the revival of global trade talks, which foundered in Cancun, Mexico, last month will also be a priority at the Bangkok talks.

Apec's foreign and trade ministers agreed here Saturday to breathe new life into the multilateral negotiation process, saying "a successful outcome is essential" to strengthen the global trading system.

The Doha round of WTO talks in Cancun, aimed at pushing trade liberalization forward, collapsed amid bickering over market access, farming subsidies and tariff structures.

Bridging the gap between rich and poor nations centered on agricultural trade, and getting the Doha round of negotiations back on track will be a major challenge at the summit to be hosted by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin, who is revelling in his moment in the international spotlight, has ensured the usually chaotic capital has been scrubbed and sanitised to impress the VIP visitors, with campaigns to clear the city of beggars and stray dogs.

The highlight of the summit will be a procession of Thailand's exquisite royal barges along Bangkok's Chao Phraya River Monday night, a centuries-old tradition normally reserved for coronations and pilgrimages.

Against a backdrop of the Grand Palace and shimmering riverside temples, more than 2,000 Royal Navy oarsmen dressed in traditional red and gold will guide the barges along the river after a gala dinner.

The following day, the 21 world leaders will hold a retreat in one of Thailand's most opulent historic buildings, the lavish and rarely-used Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall.

AFP

Bin Laden vows more attacks on US, allies

DUBAI—Al Jazeera broadcast two audio tapes purportedly from Osama bin Laden on Saturday vowing more suicide attacks inside and outside the United States and warning that all countries backing the US over Iraq were targets.

The speaker on the tapes urged Iraqis to wage a holy war against US "crusaders" in Iraq until an Islamic government was set up in Baghdad.

"You should know that this war (by the US-led occupiers in Iraq) is a new crusade against the Islamic world and is a fateful war for the whole (Muslim) nation," the speaker said.

"We, God willing, will continue to fight you (Washington) and will continue martyrdom (suicide) operations inside and outside the United States until you abandon your oppression and foolish acts."

The speaker said it was now clear US President George W. Bush had launched the war that ousted Saddam Hussein to fulfill a "Zionist" lobby aim of destroying Iraq's military might and seizing its oil wealth.

"Let the unjust know we have the right to respond at any suitable time and place to all who participate in this cruel war—Britain, Spain, Australia, Poland, Japan, Italy and Muslim states, and especially Kuwait and other Gulf states."

It was not immediately possible to independently verify the authenticity of the tapes, but the voice and style of speech were similar to Bin Laden's.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said: "(The tapes are) a reminder that the global war on terror continues. Terrorists are enemies of the civilized world."

The recordings—one addressed to Americans and the other to Iraqis—appeared to be recent because the speaker accused former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who resigned from his post only last month, of being a US agent.

Reuters

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (INTERNATIONAL LAW)—Foreign agent entitled to defense of immunity from suit—A foreign agent, operating within a territory, can be cloaked with immunity from suit but only as long as it can be established that he is acting within the directives of the sending state. The consent of the host state is an indispensable requirement of basic courtesy between the two sovereigns. Guinto and Shauf both involve officers and personnel of the United States, stationed within Philippine territory, under the RP-US Military Bases Agreement. While evidence is wanting to show any similar agreement between the governments of the Philippines and of the United States (for the latter to send its agents and to conduct surveillance and related activities of suspected drug dealers in the Philippines), the consent or imprimatur of the Philippine government to the activities of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency, however, can be gleaned from the facts heretofore elsewhere mentioned. The official exchanges of communication between agencies of the government of the two countries, certifications from officials of both the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs and the United States Embassy, as well as the participation of members of the Philippine Narcotics Command in the "buy-bust operation" conducted at the residence of Minucher at the behest of Scalzo, may be inadequate to support the "diplomatic status" of the latter but they give enough indication that the Philippine government has given its imprimatur, if not consent, to the activities within Philippine territory of agent Scalzo of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency. The job description of Scalzo has tasked him to conduct surveillance on suspected drug suppliers and, after having ascertained the target, to inform local law enforcers who would then be expected to make the arrest. In conducting surveillance activities on Minucher, later acting as the poseur-buyer during the buy-bust operation, and then becoming a principal witness in the criminal case against Minucher, Scalzo hardly can be said to have acted beyond the scope of his official function or duties. All told, this Court is constrained to rule that respondent Arthur Scalzo, an agent of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency allowed by the Philippine government to conduct activities in the country to help contain the problem on the drug traffic, is entitled to the defense of state immunity from suit." [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, First Division, Minucher v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 142396, February 11, 2003]

By R. B. Vera

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Mother Teresa declared blessed

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II declared Mother Teresa of Calcutta a blessed of the Roman Catholic Church on Sunday, putting the late "Saint of the Gutters" on the fast track to sainthood for her life of selfless help to the poor.

"With our apostolic authority, we grant that the venerable servant of God Teresa of Calcutta shall from now on be called blessed," declared the Pontiff, a longtime friend of the frail nun who died in 1997 at the age of 87.

Over 150,000 pilgrims, tourists, Catholics and non-Catholic admirers packed the beatification Mass in St. Peter's Square and filled the broad Via della Conciliazione leading from the Vatican down to the River Tiber. The crowd cheered and waved as the Pope made Mother Teresa the 1,315th "blessed" of the Roman Catholic Church.

The ethnic Albanian sister, winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, tended to the sick and dying of Calcutta's slums for decades with the Missionaries of Charity order she founded.

Many of her nuns in their blue-trimmed white saris stood out in the vast crowd, where a special section for thousands of Rome's homeless and downtrodden was reserved close to the elevated altar where John Paul said the beatification Mass.

The ceremony came three days after the Polish pontiff, 83, celebrated his 25th anniversary as head of the billion-strong Church amid growing concern for his failing health.

Mother Teresa dedicated her life to the disinherited and the dying, loving and caring for those who nobody else was prepared to look after.

She became synonymous with the people she called "the poorest of the poor" in the slums of Calcutta over more than four decades of her life devoted to others.

Her unselfish work would win the humble, diminutive nun the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 as well as trenchant criticism in some quarters over her dealings with some of her wealthy benefactors.

She accepted the Nobel prize "in the name of the hungry, the naked, the homeless, of the crippled, of the blind, of the lepers, of all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared-for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone."

Her occasional critics felt she, in turn, should have shunned the notoriously unsavory Haitian ruler Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, as well as the disgraced British media tycoon Robert Maxwell, both of whom donated generously to her cause.

She had set up her Missionaries of Charity order in Calcutta to help those "shunned by everyone" in 1950 and seen it spread from a small community to a huge multinational order by the time she died in 1997, at the age of 87.

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born to Albanian parents in Skopje, in what is now Macedonia on Aug. 27, 1910.

At the age of 18, she joined the Irish order, the Sisters of Loreto, beginning life as a teaching nun at one of its sister houses in Calcutta, India.

But her life as a teacher ended in 1948 when she came across a woman dying in the street in front of a Calcutta hospital. She then chose to change direction and work with the poor in the city's slums, in time becoming known to a curious media as the "Saint of the Gutters."

She opened her first House for the Dying in a former temple in Calcutta in 1952, caring for and giving dignity to dying Indians found on the streets, where her new Missionaries of Charity, readily identifiable by their distinct blue and white saris became a fixture.

Five years later, they began their worldwide work caring for lepers.

In 1963, she received the Padmashri, or Lord of the Lotus, prize for her services to the people of India, and in 1971, Pope Paul VI awarded her the first Pope John XXIII Peace Prize. The Nobel followed eight years later.

Six months before her death in 1987, suffering from a heart condition, she handed over the running of her order to its current head, Sister Nirmala, who joined the multitude of pilgrims from around the world who packed into St. Peter's Square for Sunday's ceremony. *Reuters, AFP*

Pope to lead Catholics 'until the final breath'

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II told cardinals on Saturday that he would continue to lead the world's one billion Catholics, committing himself to the office he accepted 25 years ago "until the final breath."

"Continue to pray for me, so that I can faithfully fulfill my service to the Church for as long as the Lord wishes," the Pope said at a Vatican gathering of Catholic hierarchy to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his pontificate.

"The courage to proclaim the Gospel must never fade," said his speech to the gathering of cardinals, archbishops and heads of episcopal conferences.

"Furthermore, it must be our main commitment until the final breath, faced with an ever-renewed dedication," said his address, which had to be finished by an aide.

At a special Mass on Thursday to mark his 25 years as pope, the Pontiff urged Catholics to pray for the strength to allow him to continue to lead them.

John Paul II, whose failing health because of worsening Parkinson's disease has concerned Church leaders, appeared to be in relatively good form on Saturday but as in recent weeks, he left much of his address to an aide to read.

The audience with the cardinals marked the official end of four days of discussions on his 25-year pontificate, which included debate on the problems facing the 2,000-year-old institution. The Pontiff was present only the final day.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, one of the senior cardinals closest to the Pope, paid tribute to John Paul II for "bringing the light of God to the world despite a sky obscured by clouds" of conflict and injustice.

Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano lauded the Pope's personal peace campaign in the year of the Iraq war.

"Six months have passed since the end of the conflict and the development of events in Iraq are demonstrating that if it is easy to win the war, it's not as easy to win the cause of peace and justice," Sodano said. *AFP*

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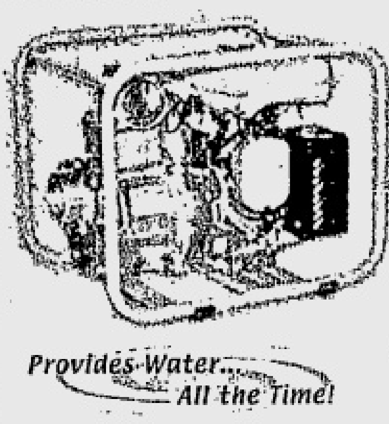
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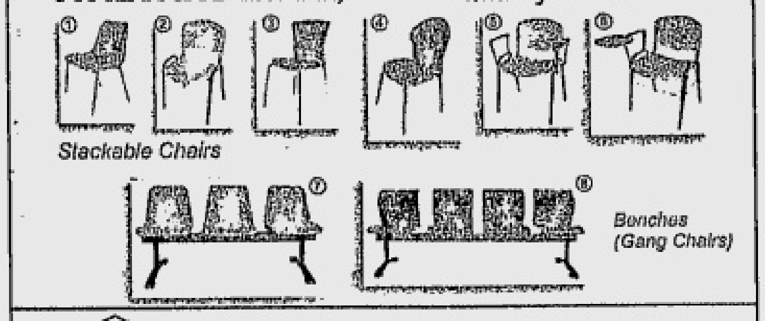

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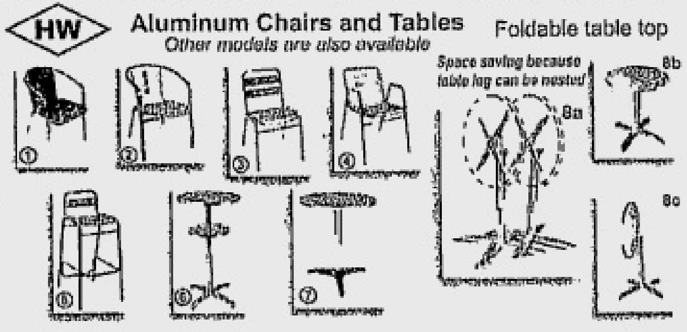

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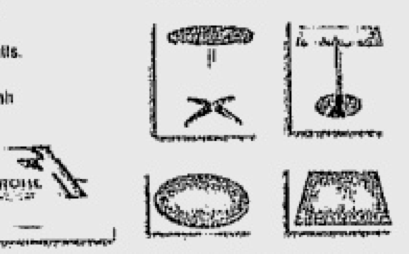
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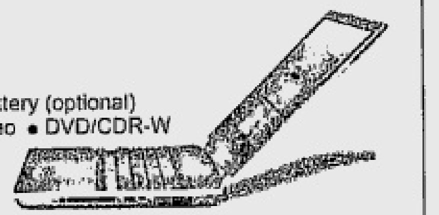
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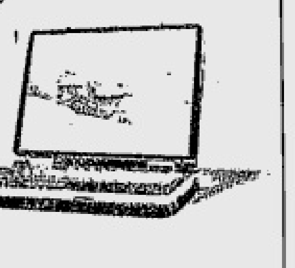
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Bush rules out US-N. Korea non-aggression pact

BANGKOK—US President George W. Bush on Sunday ruled out signing a non-aggression pact with North Korea, but said he would explore other options for reassuring Pyongyang that the United States has no plans to attack.

"We will not have a treaty, if that's what you're asking. That's off the table," Bush said, rejecting Pyongyang's demand for such an accord as the price for dismantling its nuclear weapons program.

"Perhaps there are other ways we can look at to say exactly what I've said publicly on paper with our partners' consent," he said. "If we think there's an opportunity to move the process forward, we'll discuss it with our partners."

His comments came as he kicked off a state visit with a meeting with Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand, which he praised as a stalwart ally in the war on terrorism and thanked for supporting the invasion of Iraq.

Bush was to sit down later with Chinese President Hu Jintao for talks expected to focus on the six-party talks Washington says are the best way to convince North Korea to give up its nuclear arms programs.

Pyongyang blames the United States for the year-long nuclear crisis and says it will not disarm—North Korea's term for scrapping its atomic weapons—until Washington commits to a legally binding non-aggression pact.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Friday that Washington wanted other nations to join it in a multilateral security deal with North Korea that it hopes will satisfy the Stalinist state's demands for a formal accord.

"It would be something that would be public, something that would be written, something that I hope would be multilateral," he said in an interview with news agency reporters.

"We have no intention of invading North Korea," Bush said Sunday in a reprise of Washington's oft-repeated policy.

"What's important is the burden is on North Korea, not on America. North Korea must get rid of her nuclear ambitions, she must get rid of her weapons programs," Bush countered here. "In a verifiable way, I might add."

Efforts are under way to jump-start a second round of six-nation talks on the nuclear crisis.

The two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States met late August in Beijing to ease tensions caused by the stand-off over North Korea's nuclear weapons drive. *AFP*

Kim back in seclusion as nuke tension mounts

KIM Jong-il

TOKYO—North Korea's unpredictable leader Kim Jong-il is back in seclusion as tension mounts again over the Korean nuclear crisis, spawning rumors abroad about internal troubles or problems with his health.

Propaganda media in Pyongyang remained silent about Kim's activities on Saturday for the 39th day in a row since September 9, when the reclusive leader reviewed a military parade on North's 55th national day.

In the meantime, the heavily armed but impoverished nation has threatened to prove the "physical force" of its nuclear might, dismissing calls for another round of six-nation talks aimed at dismantling its suspected atomic arsenal.

Among the Pyongyang watchers in Tokyo and Seoul, the word is that Kim is sick or tending his wife after she was critically injured in a traffic accident in late September. She is also rumored to be terminally ill with breast cancer.

The "Dear Leader" was otherwise thought to be so busy clearing up a row over the selection of his successor that he could not greet the public or tour military units, farms and factories to provide his customary "on-the-spot" guidance.

None of these scenarios could be independently confirmed in the die-hard communist state, where the flow of information is stifled.

"They are interesting for us too," a senior European diplomat in Pyongyang said. "But we have as much information on them as anybody else does. In other words, not much."

Such a long absence from the public eye by the 62-year-old Kim is not unprecedented, however.

At the height of the US-led war on Iraq earlier this year, he disappeared from view for 49 days.

Diplomats and analysts believed that Kim, who also controls the one million-strong Korean People's Army, holed up in a shelter with military top brass at that time to follow the fighting in Iraq so as to prepare for any pre-emptive US attack on the North.

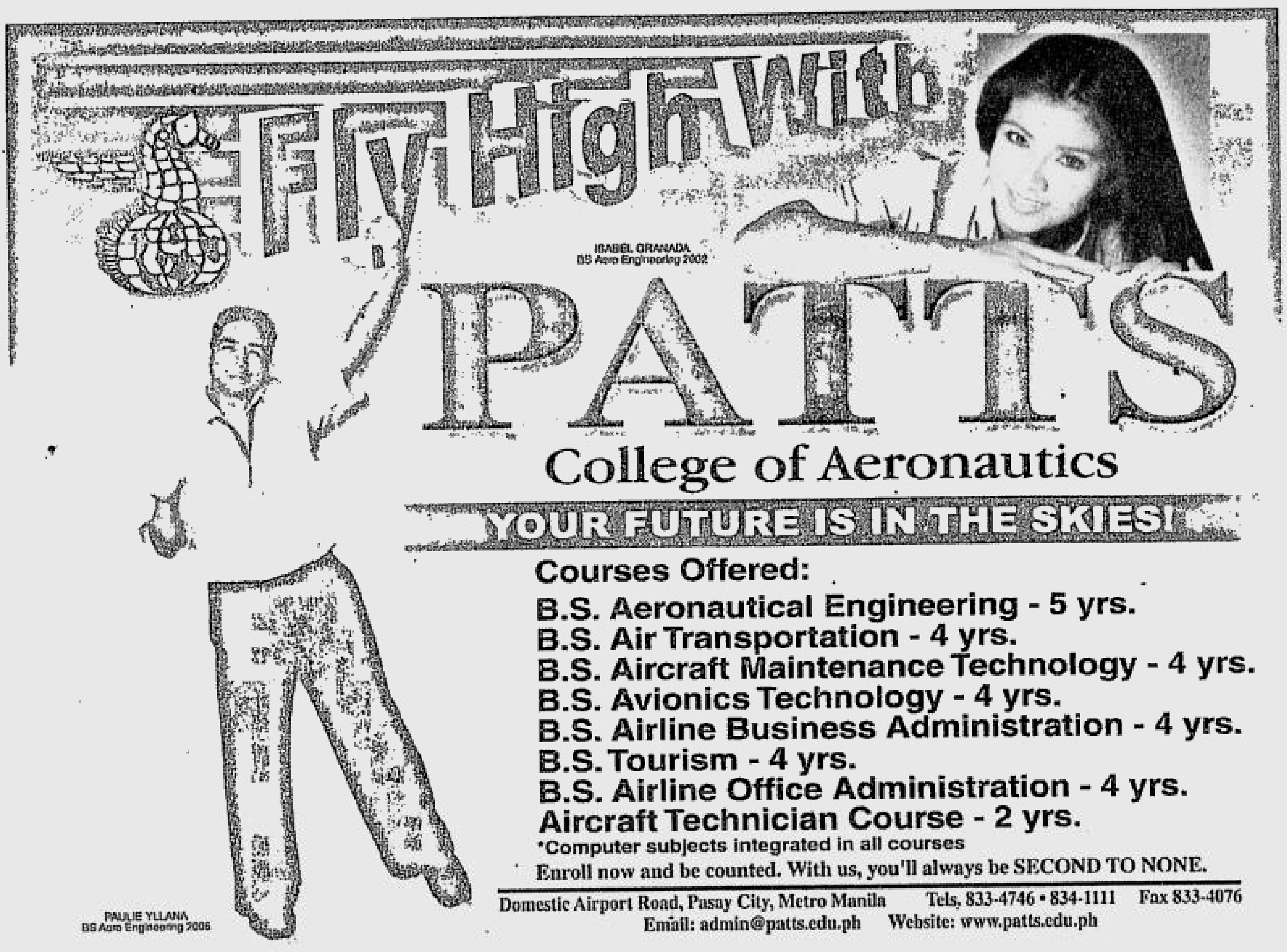
Kim's disappearing trick became noticeable again after China's number-two leader Wu Bangguo, head of the National People's Congress, had to cancel his visit to Pyongyang at the last minute in late September, reportedly due to the North's "internal circumstances."

On October 2, Sergei Darkin, the Russian Far Eastern region governor, also could not meet Kim when he visited Pyongyang at his invitation.

Then Kim skipped ceremonies marking the October 10 birthday of the all-powerful Workers Party, of which he has been head for six years.

AERA, a weekly published by the influential Japanese newspaper Asahi, reported last week, quoting a well-informed source, that Kim underwent an operation in late September to relieve "pain which was not life threatening."

But Takushoku University professor Tomomitsu Shigemura, one of the most quoted Pyongyang watchers, said a foreign visitor met Kim in Pyongyang in the second week of October and that he "looked healthy and was performing his normal duties." *AFP*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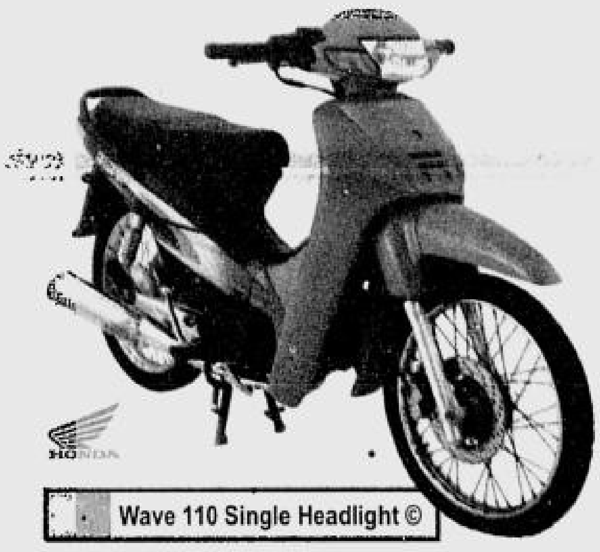
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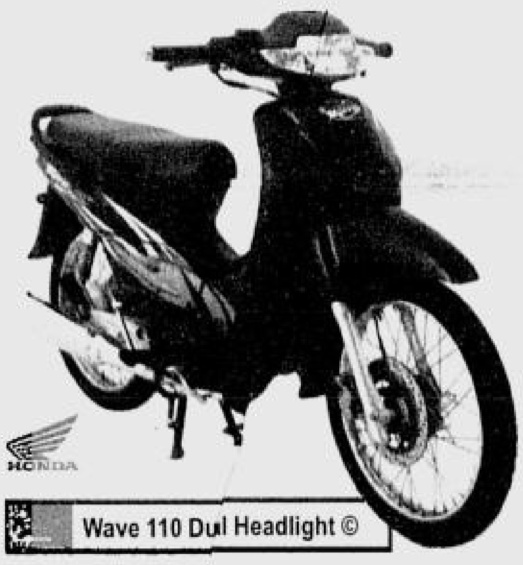
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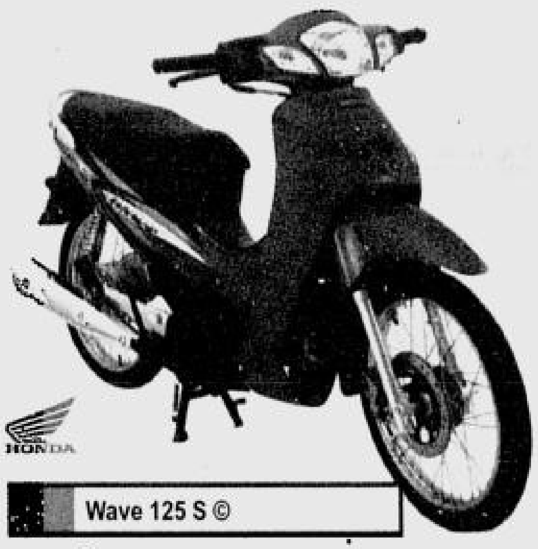
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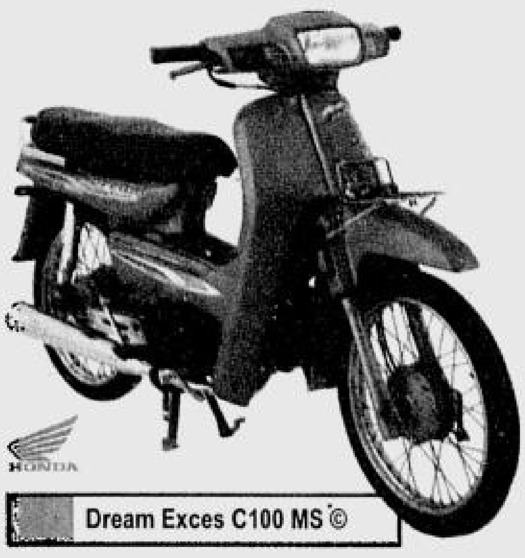
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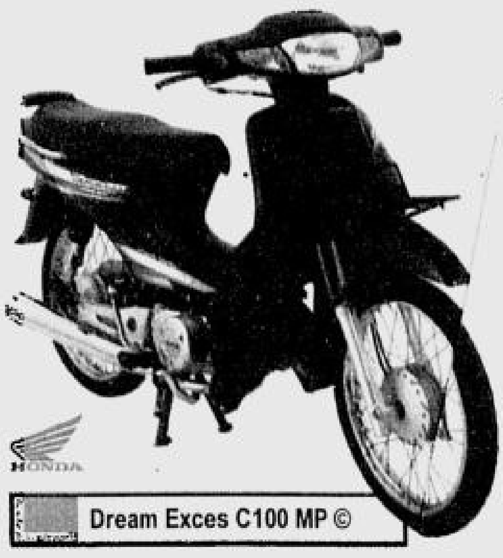
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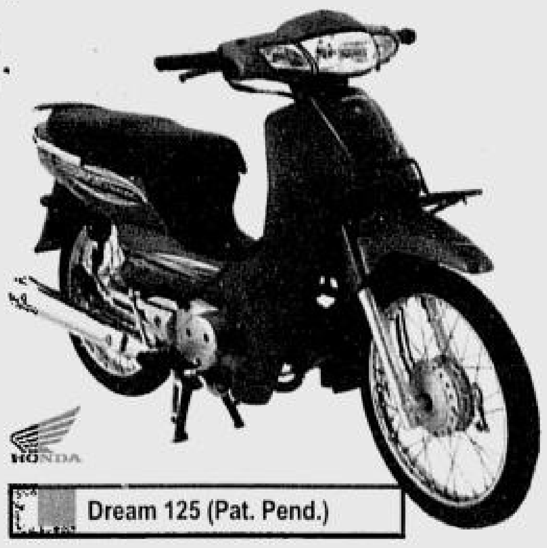
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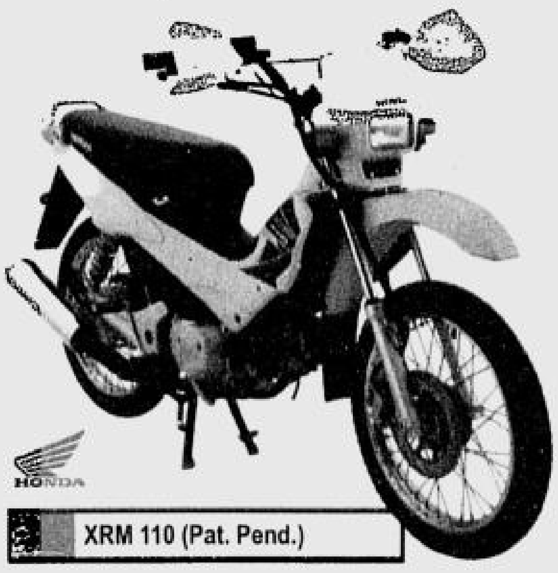
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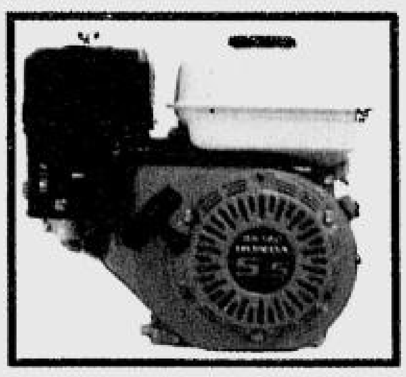
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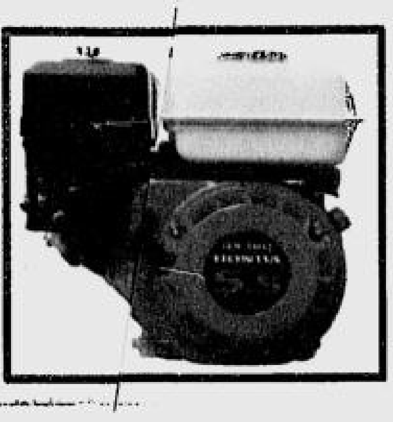
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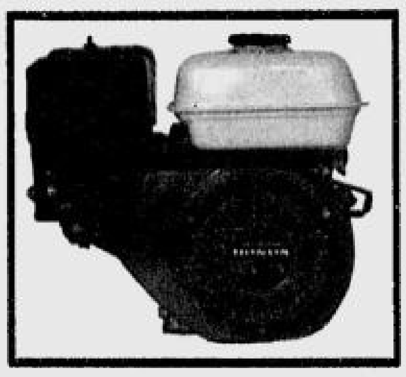
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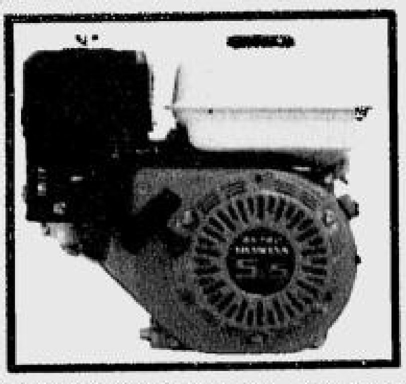
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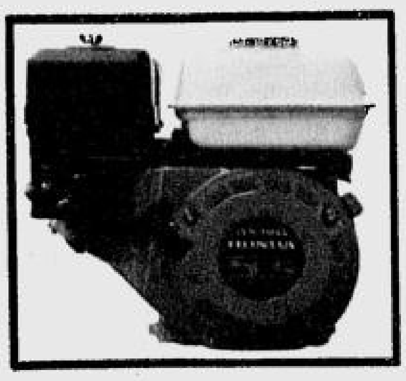
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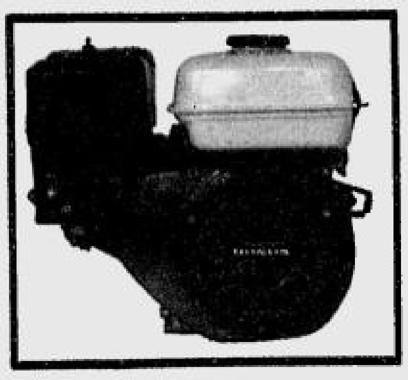
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OPINION

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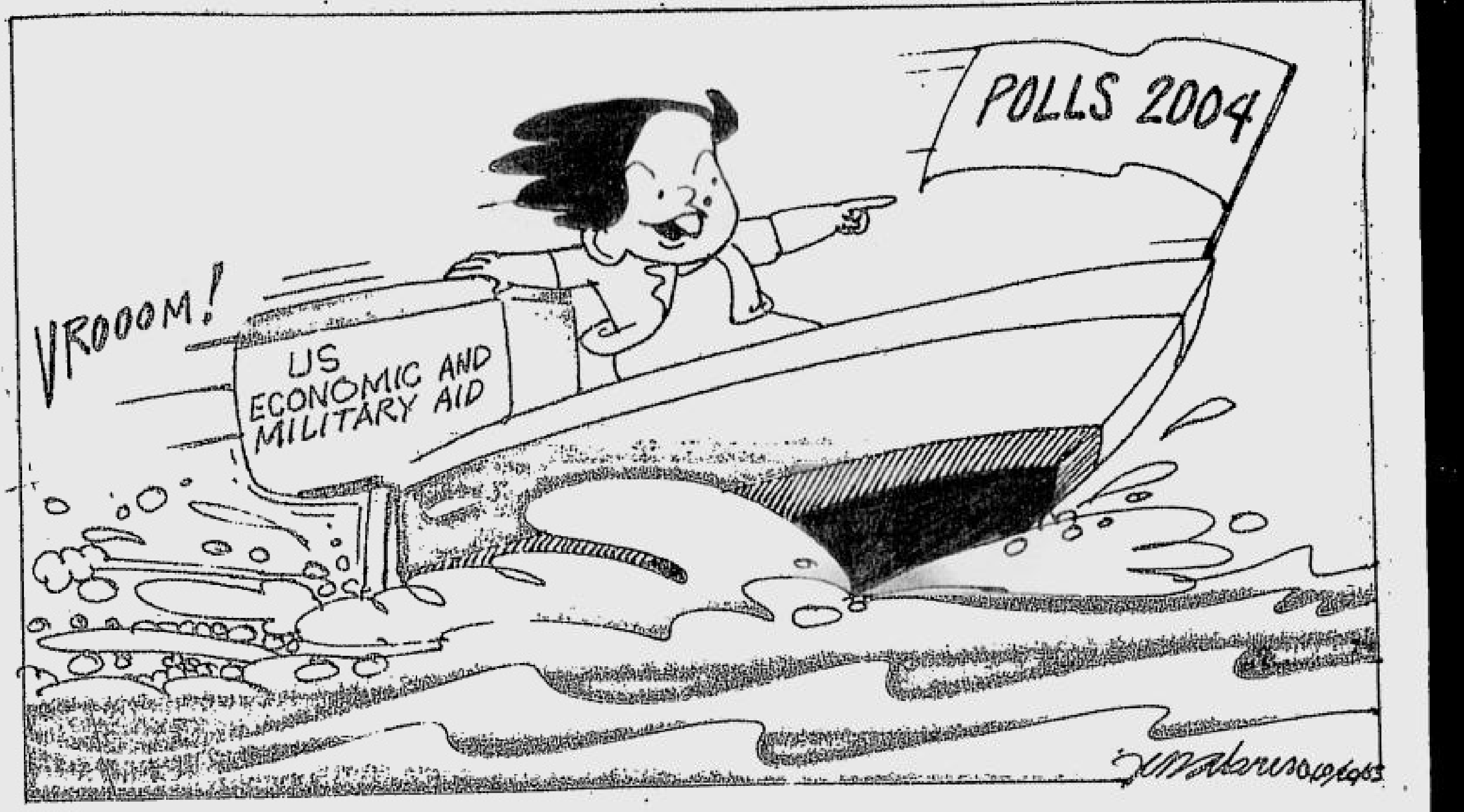
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VROOOM!
US ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID

Twenty minutes

GEORGE W. Bush's eight-hour visit on Saturday was the seventh by an American president, and the first since his predecessor Bill Clinton came calling in 1994. His 20-minute address before a joint session of Congress, however, was only the second in our history, after Dwight Eisenhower's in June 1960.

It deserves a closer reading.

EDITORIAL

As expected, it did not contain any surprises, at least in matters of substance. In style, however, Bush's speech was notable for two innovations. It appropriated the thought of Jose Rizal, and it borrowed the Biblical language of Pope John Paul II.

In what is possibly the first mention of Rizal in a major address by an American president, Bush said in the third paragraph (the first after the pleasantries) of his speech: "The great patriot, Jose Rizal, said that nations win their freedom by deserving it, by loving what is just, what is good, what is great to the point of dying for it." (In the official transcript made available on the US state department's website, Rizal's words appear as an indirect quote, like a paraphrase. In fact, the words are an actual quote from a familiar English translation.)

Bush used Rizal's thought as the premise for his fundamental argument, that the international war on terror was a new struggle between the forces of freedom and "a new totalitarian threat."

The rhetorical idea was to signal that there is a privileged Filipino way of understanding the problem of terrorism, and that Americans and Filipinos are equal partners in the anti-terror war.

"In the 107 years since that good man's heroic death, Filipinos have fought for justice, you have sacrificed for democracy—you have earned your freedom."

After starting with Rizal, Bush ended with the Pope. In the second-to-the-last paragraph of his address, he recalled a milestone in our history: John Paul II's second visit to this country, which drew some five million people to Rizal Park, the largest crowd in world history.

"In this city, on a January morning in 1995, Pope John Paul II addressed millions of the faithful. He spoke of the goodness of the Filipino people, and the strength of your democracy and the example this nation has set for others. He said, 'May your light spread out from Manila to the farthest corners of the world, like the great light which shone in the night at Bethlehem.' Ladies and gentlemen, the world needs the Philippines to continue as a light to all of Asia and beyond."

American conservatives tend to admire the Pope as the advocate of democracy, which is a narrow view of John Paul II's authentic and complicated legacy. But the rhetorical idea behind this conservative president's "light to Asia" passage was to signal that there is a privileged faith-based approach to understanding the true role of the Philippines in global affairs, at least as far as the Bush administration sees it.

What the Pope meant in 1995, of course, was the country's missionary role in Asia: not only to send missions to convert unbelievers abroad, but to be itself an example of true Christian conversion. What Bush meant to do (and objectively speaking, it was a rhetorical aim he achieved in his 20 minutes before Congress) was to clothe the country's lead role in the international coalition against terror—which he summed up as "your commitments to democracy and peace, and your willingness to oppose terrorism and tyranny"—in the Pope's generous robes.

The speech was marked by many references to the strong historical ties that bind the Philippines and the United States. That Bush often had to be economical with the truth of history was only to be expected. ("Together our soldiers liberated the Philippines from colonial rule"—a graceful assertion that that great patriot and anti-imperialist Mark Twain would have found absurd.) That he spoke of the American role in bringing the Abu Sayyaf "to justice," and of its role in the peace negotiations with the MILF and other once-local issues, was true to form. But that Bush used both Rizal and the Pope—that showed he realized he had to sell his point in order to make it.

Deadline nears for NVM Awards for short story

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHY did President George W. Bush's party take the overland route, instead of the helicopter route, from Malacañang to the Batasang Pambansa last Saturday when that was the longer and more dangerous route, I have been asked several times.

Answer: probably to confuse potential terrorists. Security people do it all the time. Since terrorism became a serious threat, they don't give exact routes anymore. Instead they leak out a number of possible scenarios to confuse. You never know which one would be used. I suppose even the security people themselves, except the very top officials who call the shots, don't know until the very last minute. That is to prevent leaks. And the officers make changes as the situation changes.

A security official told me that although the danger from militant rallyists and terrorist bombs was real on the overland route, flying by helicopter from Malacañang to Batasan was even more dangerous. The helicopter, even with escorts, is vulnerable to mobile, shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile, he said. With so many squatter colonies on the way, there are so many places terrorists can fire from. A helicopter reconnaissance no doubt saw this and gave its assessment.

Of course, a remote-operated car bomb along the way, or a rocket fired from a building, could also have posed risks, but a fast-moving motorcade is less easy to hit than a helicopter in the air, the security man said.

Well, all's well that ends well. The eight-hour Bush visit went smoothly with nary a hitch, (except that the congressmen and senators waited for more than an hour at the Batasan). The security people, Filipino and American, should be congratulated for that.

It took a little more than 15 minutes for the Bush motorcade to travel from Malacañang to Batasan in Quezon City, a route that normally takes two hours. Of course, the police closed it off to normal traffic, which created traffic jams in the alternate routes, although many motorists wisely chose to stay home. A few malls also preferred to stay closed during the Bush visit, expecting the traffic jams. The car ride gave Bush an opportunity to see the schoolchildren along the road, waving American flags. And the people were able to catch a glimpse of the American president as his bulletproofed limousine whizzed by. The marshals outwitted the demonstrators waiting in the streets. At the Quezon Memorial Circle, the motorcade altered course, going clockwise instead of counter-clockwise, catching those waiting on the wrong side of the road by surprise. Bush hardly saw any demonstrator, flag-burning or placard, only those hailing him. The anti-American protestors were effectively kept away from him.

* * *

The quick removal of the squatters near the Batasan shows that when the government wants to, it can remove squatters quickly with hardly any violence that usually accompanies squatter demolition. And the squatters don't resist when they see the government is determined to remove them. It is when the government is namby-pamby and hesitant and some vote-courting politicians interfere that the squatters are encouraged and the resistance and violence begin.

Although there are no ready homes at the relocation site, the squatters are happy because the new lots assigned to them will be theirs permanently. They are no longer squatters. The Quezon City government, however, is obligated to help and protect the subdivision beside which the squatters were dumped. If you were residing peacefully in a respectable neighborhood and a squatter colony suddenly mushroomed beside you, how would you feel?

By the way, politicians can no longer expect votes from squatters who move to the former's territories before elections. The Commission on Elections will no longer register them. I hope that ends the squatter-coddling by politicians.

* * *

The deadline for the submission of entries to the NVM Gonzalez Awards for the Short Story is nearing. It is Nov. 3, two Mondays from now. The award carries the grand prize of P50,000, plus fame of course. All you have to do is sit before a computer or typewriter and bat out an outstanding short story. You don't even have to get out of the house, battle with traffic, flex a muscle or sweat it out in the sun. Where can you find a better deal than that?

The NVM Awards is open to all Filipino writers in English. Short stories in English published from Nov. 15, 2002 to Oct. 15, 2003 can be submitted by the authors or by the editors of the publications. In fact, editors of national magazines and university and college publications are encouraged to submit entries. A grand prize winner and honorable mentions will be chosen. It is understood that NVM Inc. may publish winning entries in an anthology. Those who have won the award three times will be elevated to the Hall of Fame and will no longer be eligible for the contest.

Entries must be mailed in six copies (typed double spaced), plus one original published form and the author's bio-data to: NVM Awards; P-57 A Mabini St., Area I; UP Campus, Diliman, QC 1101; Attn. Ms Chitty Cortes.

For inquiries, you may call Ms Cortes at 921-6429 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) or e-mail at nvmink@yahoo.com.

The NVM Awards honors the late National Artist for Literature NVM Gonzalez's love for the short story and seeks to preserve and encourage excellence in this genre among Filipino writers. His evocative imagery and sympathetic portrayals of humble Filipinos altered the course of Filipino writing in English.

Smoke and mirrors

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE HAND is faster than the eye, the heart is faster than the head. By tugging at our heartstrings and resorting to flattery, George W. Bush managed to play a neat trick on us at the Batasan last Saturday.

At least his speechwriters know their business. Nothing works faster on us than reminding us of Bataan and Corregidor, symbols of Philippine-American friendship—though it's typical of Bush that he spoke of our common defense of Corregidor, Leyte and Luzon and telling us we are a beacon to the world. From there it was easy to conjure all sorts of illusions: our common democratic tradition, the great Philippine-American Alliance, embracing war for peace.

Most people who watch a magician turn handkerchiefs into doves come out of the circus tent entertained but knowing they saw a magic trick. Our leaders came out of the circus tent awed and marveling at the sight of handkerchiefs truly becoming doves. Well, it doesn't take magic to transform our senators' and congressmen's IQ into Bush's level.

First, the part about our common democratic tradition. More than half a century ago, Bush said, the first democracy in Asia was born from the manger of World War II, and it eventually grew into a strong and resplendent thing, capable of overthrowing tyranny. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo harped on the same theme in her toast at Malacañang, speaking of our growth from a fledgling democracy into a mature one, ready to take its place in the councils of the world.

They missed the mark by another half-century. This country did not turn into a democracy at the end of the Japanese Occupation, by fiat or the US granting us independence. It became so before the turn of the 20th century, by an act of defiance or struggle against foreign rule. This country became a democracy because of patriots like Marcelo del Pilar, who gave the country a vision of freedom, Jose Rizal (before whom Bush had just paid homage earlier), who enabled Filipinos to see themselves as Filipinos, and Andres Bonifacio, who brought the oppressed to throw off their yoke. Not because of commissioners like Paul V. McNutt.

If you associate democracy with self-determination, libertarian ideals, and independence, then this country became a fledgling democracy in 1898, not in 1946. That fledgling democracy never had a chance to mature because it was nipped in the bud by Admiral George Dewey, the fellow after whom the boulevard that was closed to traffic last Saturday used to be named.

Precisely in recognition of that, a Filipino president changed this country's Independence Day from July 4, 1946 to June 12,1898. That president was Diosdado Macapagal, Gloria's father.

As to this country maturing enough democratically to overthrow tyrants, that is in spite of rather than because of American help. The first tyrant we overthrew by an act of People Power became a tyrant with American help. Bush should know it very well. It wasn't just that his predecessor, Richard Nixon, propped up Marcos' martial law, it was that his own father toasted Marcos' adherence to democracy. Father and son have always been a little confused about the word.

But clearly, there's nothing common about our democratic tradition. Our own grew out of resisting oppressive intrusions, not least the American one.

The great Philippine-American Alliance has all the epic illusion of a David Copperfield act. It makes the entire history of the American occupation of this country disappear, and goes on to show a Philippines that enters into a covenant with a superpower out of its own free will and filled with a sense of global destiny. Only a few weeks ago, Bush performed the same magic trick at the United Nations, with help from his assistant, GMA. Bush asked the world to help him build a "free Iraq" and GMA echoed his call, urging other countries to do as she does.

They were booed. Or worse than booed, met with the performer's nightmare, which was a frosty reception. "That was the diplomatic equivalent of hurled vegetables," one American reporter said of the reaction to Bush's speech. GMA might as well not have been there. Kofi Annan, Jacques Chirac and Mahathir Mohammad took turns in reminding Bush that democracy meant obeying the world's wishes (as represented by the UN) and respecting other people's rights, not invading another country. If he were serious about democracy, they said, he should let the Iraqis rule themselves rather than presume to know what's best for them. Thankfully—for us—they did not add that he should confine the notion of the wisdom of American tutelage in freedom and democracy to the Philippines.

It's true of course: We are a beacon to the world. But we are so not because we like to play Tonto(!) to America's Lone Ranger. We are so because we were the first to launch an anti-colonial revolution in Asia (all the more revolutionary for the Katipunan representing a revolt of the masses) and because we've ousted a couple of tyrants in bloodless uprisings. The horrendous thing in fact is that GMA, like Bush, is frittering away all the goodwill we've gotten there by taking the side of iniquity. In but two years' time, Bush has made the world forget that a couple of buildings in New York were razed by suicide pilots. In but two and half years' time, GMA has made the world forget we are the cradle of People Power.

As to peace being the end product of a policy of arming this country's military to the teeth, allowing American troops in to fight "terrorists," and embracing war as a way of life (or death), that is the biggest illusion of all. Bush ended by quoting the Pope as telling us to continue to be a source of inspiration to Asia. He forgot that the same Pope asked us to renounce his path as an unjust one.

F4 was by far the less expensive, and more entertaining.

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Only in RP

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT could only have happened here. George W. Bush, president of the world's lone superpower, was simply overwhelmed by the renowned Pinoy hospitality. The state banquet tendered by President Macapagal-Arroyo and the First Gentleman was perhaps the most elegant in Malacañang in a long time, with florist Toni Parsons outdoing herself in her tall individual table centerpieces featuring a wreath of huge cabbage roses topped by four long-stemmed candles. The simple but well-put together Manila Hotel-catered dinner was served with Pinoy music dished out by a string quartet and a cultural fare featuring Lea Salonga at her commanding best (excellent voice and presence), and the Bayanihan dancers doing Maranao dances, which sent the barong-clad Bush beating to the scintillating cadence. The details spoke of attention, such as a sugared cowboy boot topping the mousse desert and the folk dancers serenading Bush at the finale with "Deep in the Heart of Texas." That Texas anthem, which sent the famous Texan clapping rhythmically with the guests, set the cue for the remarkable thing that happened that night: Pinoy hospitality broke stiff protocol and decorum, and Bush seemed to surrender himself wholly to it.

* * *

As the US president moved out of the ceremonial hall, he started warmly shaking hands and chatting with those who swarmed around him, looking mighty pleased. Before he knew it, he was being mobbed and many of the high and mighty, mostly the ladies, forgot decorum as they grabbed his hands. The Secret Service could only look helplessly. Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon was grinning from ear to ear—only in RP, he said, "*na* WOW Philippines *si* Dubya." Bush kissed Gina de Venecia on the cheek, prompting Mila Drilon to ask, what about me, and he kissed her too. *Naku, si* Mila, *isang linggong hindi maliligo*, quipped Senate Chief Franklin Drilon. Spotting Lovely Romulo, Bush put his arm around her and bussed her for the cameras, and Lovely simply melted. GMA, dressed in a *terno* of varying hues of red by Rem Divino, indulged her visitor and smilingly watched from the sidelines as he was being mobbed. GMA quipped to her Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, "*Ayun ang asawa mo, hinalikan ni* Bush." The Bushes shook hands with the Bayanihan dancers who lined up to say goodbye and gamely posed for photos with them, with Bush personally pulling the Maranao Princess so she could join in the photo. By then it was pandemonium as the ladies mobbed him, prompting Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos to remark, "*Ang hirap palang maghabol sa artista.*"

* * *

Much of the success of the Bush visit was due to the hosts' painstaking effort as much as to the visitors' warmth—Dubya seemed like a regular fellow with easy affable manners; as they say, cowboy *na* cowboy. The Bush touch was evident upon arrival at the Palace grounds, when he picked up First Granddaughter Mikaela Arroyo and bussed her in front of her beaming *lola*. Arriving at the Batasan, he thanked Senate President Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia for inviting him to address the joint session and was more profuse about it afterwards. In the session hall, the representatives chuckled as they saw on the giant TV screen Bush put his arm on JDV's shoulder. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza told the media how Bush, thanking him for the preparations at the wreath-laying at Rizal Park, noticed even the streamers. The US president chatted with him about how many Fil-Americans serve in his staff and the big contribution of Pinoys to the US economy. As they parted, Bush called out to the mayor, "See you tonight at the state dinner." *Masyadong* warm *siya*, said Atienza, that he had the greatest urge to tell Bush, "*O, tayo na munang mag-kape* or beer *sa* Baywalk."

At the state banquet, I sampled some of that folksiness. As Bush passed in front of me on his way out, I extended my hand and told him something he didn't know at that time: that at the joint session of Congress his 18-minute speech got 20 applauses, or one applause every 54 seconds. That's quite a record, I remarked, to which he quipped, his eyes lighting up, "For me specially. Back home I talk and talk, and I never get that kind of reaction." "I guess you are more popular in Manila than in the US," I said, and he made a mock shrug.

* * *

Not all the moments of the visit went lightly, though. At the Batasan, the Congress members and gallery guests fidgeted as they waited over an hour for the VIP guest. Some guests whiled away the time cracking about how Bush picked up the tardy habit fast: when in Manila, do as the Manilans do, come late. Some worried whether the more militant members of the House would make a scene to embarrass him and GMA. To their credit, the militants lived up to their promise to the Speaker: after Rep. JV Bautista suddenly unfolded a manifesto at the start of Bush's speech, the seven of them quietly followed House security outside and they stayed out for the rest of the speech. Apart from that barely noticed episode, his address went without a wrinkle, and at the end of his speech the Congress members gave him a standing ovation.

What few knew at that time, however, was that there was a bigger problem outside the Batasan—the Cabinet crisis group at the Palace, headed by Secretary Romulo, wrestled with the problem of how to get the Bush convoy to the Batasan, as both anti and pro demonstrators had jammed the streets. Drilon and De Venecia were plainly worried—what if the visit to Congress is cancelled? Finally, through the efforts of the police led by PNP Generals Reynaldo Velasco and Edgardo Aglipay, several lanes opened up and the convoy sped to the Batasan. Laura Bush later told Gina de Venecia that she noted the big number of protesters, but that happily, those waving tiny US flags seemed to outnumber them.

Moro trailblazer passes away

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

FROM MY mailbox comes this obituary which I thought should not pass unnoticed. In his lifetime, the subject made a mark as an outstanding alumnus of the University of the Philippines. Albeit our paths never crossed, Dr. Cesar Adib Majul was a familiar name in Filipino historiography.

The obituary essentially volunteers the following information:

Probably the most prominent Muslim-Filipino academic luminary of his generation, 79-year-old Cesar Adib Majul died of prostate cancer at a Los Angeles hospital in the United States, Oct. 11, Saturday, 3 p.m. American time. Popularly known as Dean Majul, he was to have celebrated his 80th birthday in the United States this October, said fellow academic, Higher Education Commissioner Roqaya Maglangit.

Majul was born on Oct. 21, 1923 in Aparri, Cagayan. He was educated at the University of the Philippines and Cornell University and has been a member of the faculty of the University of the Philippines since 1948. He has served as a UP dean in 1961 until 1966; and from 1969 until 1971, as dean of the UP College of Arts and Sciences. Between 1961 and 1962, he served on the board of regents of the University of Mindanao. In the spring term of the academic year 1966-67, he was a visiting professor at Cornell University.

He received the Republic Heritage Award for "the most outstanding contribution to Historical Writing during the period May 1, 1960-April 30, 1961," and won the first prize in the Biography Contest on the Life of Apolinario Mabini in 1964. He also received the Distinguished Scholar Award in 1968 from UP.

Best known for his works entitled, "The Contemporary Muslim Movement in the Philippines," (1985) and "Muslims in the Philippines" (1973), he also authored such major studies as "The Political and Constitutional Ideas of the Philippine Revolution" (1957, 1968), "Mabini and the Philippine Revolution" (1960), and "Apolinario Mabini: Revolutionary" (1964).

"The Political and Constitutional Ideas of the Philippine Revolution" is an important attempt at examining and interpreting the ideas that brought about the Philippine Revolution, determined its conduct and shaped its objectives. The book is based on the doctoral dissertation which Majul presented to the Graduate Faculty of Cornell University.

His essays on Islam have been translated by Dr. Nabil Tawil Subhi into Arabic and published in Beirut as "Al-Islam Fil-Sharqil Aqsa" (1966). This book adds a new dimension to an already distinguished career.

Dean Majul also co-authored a book with Ralph H. Salmi and George K. Tanham entitled "Islam and Conflict Resolution: Theories and Practices (1998)," which was published by the University Press of America . A number of his articles were published in several local and international journals.

An author, scholar, educator and a prominent Muslim leader, he founded the Institute of Islamic Studies and became its first dean, serving in that capacity from 1974 up to 1980.

At the time of his passing, he was living with his wife, Wiena, and daughter, Christine, in San Pablo, California.

* * *

Several crescent moons after Majul first published his "Muslims in the Philippines," Filipino historiography still lack adequate historical accounts about Mindanao. At the risk of sounding like the proverbial broken record, I'd say Mindanao remains a footnote in our history books. It is no wonder that Mindanao continues to fight for attention. For this is what Mindanao is to this day—"*kulang sa pansin.*"

One may think that Majul's prolific output would have paved the way for more vigorous research work on Mindanao history and culture. There is at the moment a project to annotate all publications pertaining to Mindanao. Prof. Rudy Rodil of Iligan, the project's spearhead, might yet find the answer to how much of Mindanao is already known in the scholastic world.

But last week, a seminar on culture and development for Mindanao cultural workers, initiated by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, revealed a disturbing picture. That is: NCCA grants for Mindanao constitute a measly 3 percent of its national grants budget. Why the pittance? We are told that very few cultural projects or research work on Mindanao have applied for NCCA assistance. The NCCA is obviously among the conduits of some good things being done in Manila for Mindanao. One cultural worker suggested that to solve the "imbalance" in the allocation of NCCA grants, it should put up a satellite office in Mindanao. Which is another way of saying Mindanao is too far away from Manila where "decisions" are made. Hence, the island and its regions lose in the race with other regions.

* * *

Some Manilans may think that Mindanaoans are now singing hosannas of thanks to George W. Bush for his financial package for Mindanao. Unless it makes a systemic change in the way Mindanao and the Filipino Muslims, for that matter, are being treated, Bush's "gift" will be nothing but another tokenism.

Then—in Majul's time—as now, Mindanao's marginalization is far from being a thing of the past. Even columns like "Kris-Crossing Mindanao" are just a drop in the ocean between Manila and Mindanao. But we have to start somewhere, and there is hope.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

Jose Rizal got his lawn mower

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

DAPITAN sends word that Jose Rizal got a new lawn mower recently, following the publication of the need for one in the INQUIRER. The caretakers of the Talisay Shrine thank their colleagues in the National Historical Institute, who deserve kudos for helping to avert an invasion of weeds and the fatal onset of final neglect upon the national hero's hallowed place of exile.

Even George W. Bush laid a wreath at the excommunicated Mason at Luneta last Saturday, an historical confirmation that recognized the end of the Spanish Catholic Taliban's reign over this archipelago. He also made a strong statement about the importance of universal education, which America brought to these shores, not the Spanish—who were interested in harvesting souls, not hearts and minds. (Else, why did they never teach us their language and share their culture in 400 years of evangelization?) Yet, almost nothing else Bush said or did, met with the approval of the usual cast of leftist and institutional resenters of America and our relationship with her of over a century.

But who can blame the Church and the Left for hating America? The reality of millions of successful Filipinos in the world's freest, most racially and religiously diverse and prosperous society, represents a devastating refutation of both their impossible paradises and dystopias. For even the most hopeless and forlorn Filipino in the farthest boondocks, America has symbolized hope. As the foremost exponents of conformism to dogma and ideology, the Church and the Left are natural allies against the "idea" of America, which is secular, humanist, democratic and capitalist—antithetical to both theocracy and the dictatorship of the proletariat.

But of course there is no open advocacy of such discredited visions. Instead they unfurl the banner of United Nations multilateralism. They claim that "without UN authority" the United States invaded, destroyed and occupied Iraq—as if the three weeks of war interrupted a 30-year reign of peace and development under the genocidal maniac and Baathist dictator, Saddam Hussein.

What I find amazing are those who fought the Marcos dictatorship yet hate America so much, that they would rather the Iraqis still suffered under the boot of Saddam. They can't bear to see America do exactly what we demanded for years—that she not support tyrannical dictatorships but overthrow them instead. Bush proves that the strength of democracies lies in the ability to evolve and to change. He puts the lie to leftist accusations of moral equivalence between America and her enemies.

Perhaps, their resentment lies in the fact that the United States helped to invent the UN. But I say, it is time for Filipinos to look hard at the true nature of the United Nations, if they wish to understand why not only Bush, but the American people as a whole, long ago abandoned the UN as a vehicle for international peace and security.

The UN is no democracy. It has no "one nation one vote." It is an oligarchy of five nations. The UN Charter does not require any of its members to be democracies. Dictatorships of right and left, totalitarian states, theocracies, as well as democracies are welcome and considered "legitimate." That was because it was an alliance of capitalist democracies and totalitarian socialist states that first formed the UN.

But what ensued throughout the 20th century was pure Darwinian competition between two opposed conceptions of how human societies can best be organized. The Cold War was the largest experiment by human beings of two ideologies so different, there was a real danger humanity would annihilate itself in their antagonism. But communism collapsed of its own unworkability—imploding under the sheer weight of the Marxist-Leninist misconception and the unsustainability of the Soviet system in the late '80s. The fittest survivor of the last century's great wars, both hot and cold, is the social system based on democracy and free-enterprise capitalism.

But it was still "unconstitutional" for America to make the legitimacy of Saddam himself the issue in the UN and so the issue of weapons of mass destruction was used to rid the world of him. The UN is an immoral organization from this standpoint: it cannot as a body actually question the moral legitimacy of members that are fascist dictatorships or communist totalitarian states, yet some of them have the veto and immense power. Until Ronald Reagan, who called the Soviet Union the "Evil Empire" and George W. Bush unilaterally overthrew a dictatorship that had been America's client.

As America's "oldest ally in Asia" the Philippines can indeed play a major role in the 21st century. We can be the Great Britain of Asia. But we must learn how to play the bilateral game better. While being grateful for the military advantages of being a major non-Nato ally of the United States, let us not forget to fight for the economic privileges that alliance makes possible. For example, we must push harder for the abolition of the sugar quota and US farm subsidies to its corn farmers which hurt US consumers as much as sugar exporters and mock the very idea of "free and fair trade." Most of all, we need an RP-US Free Trade Agreement. What have Singapore and Thailand done for America that they should deserve such a juicy arrangement, while we are treated no better than Cuba? (*The writer can be reached at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/)*

Photo of death

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

THE DEATH last week of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi was welcome news to most Filipinos, especially to the leadership of the Philippine National Police. His easy escape from Camp Crame made the Philippines a laughing stock for the international community.

Morbid as it may sound, Al-Ghozi's "termination with extreme prejudice" was a much-needed shot in the arm in the government's campaign against the activities of the Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist group in the country. Whether he died in a shootout or was executed remains a puzzler up to the present.

The INQUIRER reported Al-Ghozi's death based on information gathered from official and independent sources. The front page of the newspaper's Oct. 14 issue showed him lying half-naked, eyes slightly open, with two bullet holes in the body.

The picture struck a raw nerve in a reader who has two young children. When she first looked at the front page, her attention was immediately drawn to the photo of President Macapagal-Arroyo wearing a gauze mask over her face. Beside her was presidential adviser/Jesus Dureza, while PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. stood nearby.

When the reader looked below the front-page's fold, she was surprised to see the picture of Al-Ghozi's corpse. She said she almost puked. "I lost my appetite for breakfast," she remarked. To spare her children from the "horrible sight," she scrubbed a thickset black Pentel pen over Al-Ghozi's face and parts of his body that bore bullet wounds.

Discussion

She asked if it was necessary for the INQUIRER to publish that photo. "He may have been responsible for the death of many Filipinos, but still he deserved some amount of respect. What's wrong with showing his body covered by a blanket? It would have sent the same message to your readers without 'desecrating' his remains."

The propriety of coming out with the subject photo was discussed in last Tuesday's regular editorial assessment meeting of the editors. Some editors felt Al-Ghozi's face should have been brushed over or "pixelized" to avoid showing the look of death in his face. A question was asked: How would you feel if you were the father, mother or brother of Al-Ghozi and you saw the picture?

One editor commented that the photo is mild compared to the bloody pictures of the victims of the Dec. 30, 2000 bombing of the Light Railway Transit which, Al-Ghozi allegedly confessed to have engineered. His death photo was meant to show that his trail of terrorist activities has finally ended.

Incidentally, the bloody consequences of the LRT bombing was given full play by the editors because they wanted to bring to the readers' attention the brutality and savagery of the act that killed and injured scores of innocent civilians.

I recall that this photo elicited varied reactions from the readers. Most of those who wrote to express their opinion felt the newspaper went overboard in publishing the bloody photos. Some thought it was right for the newspaper to give the readers the true score on this incident.

Going back to the editors' discussion on Al-Ghozi's photo, the treatment given by the INQUIRER to the killing of Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faisal Marohombsar in 2002 was brought into the picture. It will be recalled that in June 2002, Marohombsar escaped from his detention cell (like Al-Ghozi) at Camp Crame. Two months later, he was gunned down by police and military elements in Magallanes, Cavite.

Treatment

President Macapagal went to the scene of the incident immediately. She was photographed looking at Marohombsar's body wrapped in heavy cloth. No part of his body was exposed. That photo accompanied the news that later came out in the INQUIRER.

So why was Al-Ghozi not given the same treatment as Marohombsar? Both were engaged in terrorist acts. The only difference is Al-Ghozi is identified with an international organization that gained notoriety because of its links to the group that bombed the World Trade Center in 2001.

A review of the INQUIRER's Manual of Editorial Policies shows that the question on whether or not pictures of the dead should be published is left to the sound discretion of the editors.

The relevant provision reads: "The decision to run photos of dead people should be based on common decency and simple good taste. For instance, it may not be in good taste to run a photo of a stack of flood victims on a truck but it may be all right to publish a long shot of a body or two lying on a street."

In other words, it is a judgment call on the editor's part. He has to decide, based on the circumstances of the event and his appreciation of the photo's significance, the manner or form by which pictures of dead people should be shown to the readers.

In Al-Ghozi's case, the editor who approved the publication of the photo in dispute believes it was necessary to do so to put an end to speculations that the right person may not have been gunned down or the reported death was meant to refurbish the country's image in time for the visit of US President George W. Bush to the Philippines.

The editors' assessment meeting ended with a decision to take a second look at the editorial policy earlier cited with a view to coming out with guidelines that the editors can refer to in case a similar situation arises in the future.

In my opinion, Al-Ghozi's corpse should not have been shown the way it came out in the newspaper. Blocking out or "pixelizing" his face would have achieved the same result without depriving him of whatever dignity he may be entitled to as a human being. Not to mention that it would have avoided upsetting the sensibilities of readers who find photos of death distressing, especially if they see it at the start of their day.

The way a nation treats its dead reflects the value it gives to human life.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Bayan Muna proposal neither anti-labor nor anti-investment

KILUSANG Mayo Uno chair Elmer Labog is correct. (PDI, 10/4/03) Contrary to the paid advertisement put up by various business groups (PDI, 9/18/03), the Alternative Labor Code proposed by the Bayan Muna Party List is definitely not anti-labor, anti-employment and anti-investment.

Since our office was among those consulted by Bayan Muna in drafting the Alternative Labor Code, allow us to further explain the matters raised in the advertisement:

1. It is true that the Bayan Muna proposal increased the penalty for violations of the Labor Code. However, the increase does not only apply to violations by the employers. It also applies to violations by the workers. If employers have no propensity for violating Labor Code provisions, the increase in penalty would be the least of their concerns.

2. It is not true that the Bayan Muna proposal has dispensed with the requirements of a strike vote. On the contrary, the majority vote of all union members is still required before a union can go on strike.

3. It is not true that the Bayan Muna proposal has rejected the preferential use of voluntary modes of settling labor disputes. It merely corrects the basic flaw of the present law which compels the parties to go into "voluntary arbitration," and takes away the consensual character of voluntary arbitration. The proposal, in other words, only observes the voluntary character of these modes. The success of voluntary arbitration lies in the willingness of both parties to arbitrate.

4. It is true that the Bayan Muna version has removed the prohibition on foreign nationals engaging in trade union activities. This ban is a carry-over from the martial law years when the dictator sought to prevent foreign priests and nuns from joining rallies in favor of workers' rights and against fascism. Martial law had long been lifted but this ban remains in our Labor Code. If foreigners are allowed to engage in activities in favor of businessmen, why prevent them from doing activities in assistance of the labor sector?

5. The Bayan Muna version has no provision on apprenticeship because of the propensity to use apprenticeship not as a mode for training but as a means to legalize the payment of substandard wages and to escape the obligation to regularize employees.

6. The business groups are correct in calling for an improvement in productivity. A worker could only be productive, however, if his physiological needs are first met. In other words, he must first be given a decent living wage before he could be productive. Productivity is the result of adequate wages and benefits, not the other way around as argued by business groups.

In sum, the Alternative Labor Code proposed by Bayan Muna aims to flesh out the state's affirmation of labor as a primary social force. (Art. II, Sec. 18, 1987 Constitution)

—REMIGIO D. SALADERO JR.,
Pro-Labor Legal
Assistance Center,
33-B E. Rodriguez Avenue, QC

Not from the CBCP

THIS is in reference to the article titled: "Bishops to GMA: Tell us your plans." (PDI, 10/1/03) The statement is not from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) but rather from the National Ecumenical Consultation Committee (Neccom) whose membership is composed of Christians (Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical), Muslims and Hindus. The CBCP as a body did not discuss the matter. The Neccom met last Sept. 29 at the National Council of Churches in the Philippines which discussed the subject matter.

I make this clarification to set the matter right.

—MSGR. HERNANDO CORONEL,
secretary general,
Catholic Bishops' Conference
of the Philippines,
470 Gen. Luna St.,
Intramuros, Manila

Paging Albert Tinio

ON THE NIGHT of Sept. 25, 2003, we parked at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's arrival parking area to send off my aunt for Germany. In front of us was a van. Around 9 p.m., a group of people came and loaded their luggage into the van.

When they had gone, I and my uncle, Anthony Infortuno of Land Bank, Sta. Maria, Bulacan, noticed that they had left a bag. I checked for the bag identification and I found the name "Albert Tinio" with a PO Box address in Guam written on it. I called Continental airlines and told them what I found and was advised to return the bag to its office in Naia. I said if I found a chance, I'll return it.

Meanwhile, I called a radio station's help to find its owner but as of this writing there has been no response. If you could please also help.

I have tried calling all the Tinios I found in the telephone directory. In one instance, I was accused of doing a Dugo-Dugo gang operation. So, please help me locate the owners.

—ANNABELLE CORPUS,
299 Haig St.
Mandaluyong City

Baby needs a liver transplant

EDWARD Louise Villafania Lucero was born on May 3, 2002. He was noted to have jaundice at one and a half months and he was admitted to the Philippine Children's Medical Center where he was worked up. He was diagnosed to have Extrahepatic Biliary Artresia. His doctors declared that the only way to remedy Edward's health condition is an immediate liver transplant.

My wife and I live with my mother, who has been providing for our needs and the staggering medical expenses for our son. I have been applying for work, aiming for a job abroad, having received my Caregiver's Certificate only last July 24, 2003.

However, time is running out for our son. He needs immediate medical help. Since there is no pediatric liver transplant in the Philippines, we wish to bring Edward to Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Kiaoshung, Taiwan, where two Filipino children successfully survived their liver transplant.

We ask for your help to save the life of my son, Edward. By God's grace, we humbly beg for your help. My wife and I have nothing and yet we need to raise the money to pay for the hospital and the doctors for the transplant; we need more money to pay for the plane fare to bring Edward to Taiwan; we need money for post-operative contingencies.

We live in Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna and our contact number is through my mother, Edna C. Biscocho. Her phone number at work is 8130364 or 8130365.

—EDUARDO BISCOCHO LUCERO,
Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna

No vote for a liar

NOBODY likes to vote for a liar.

President Macapagal-Arroyo should have seriously considered this truth before Oct. 4 when she broke her Dec. 30, 2002 promise not to run for office in May 2004.

Does she know that it is a sin to tell a lie?

Our country and people need a President who is not a liar. For a liar has no business running for any office.

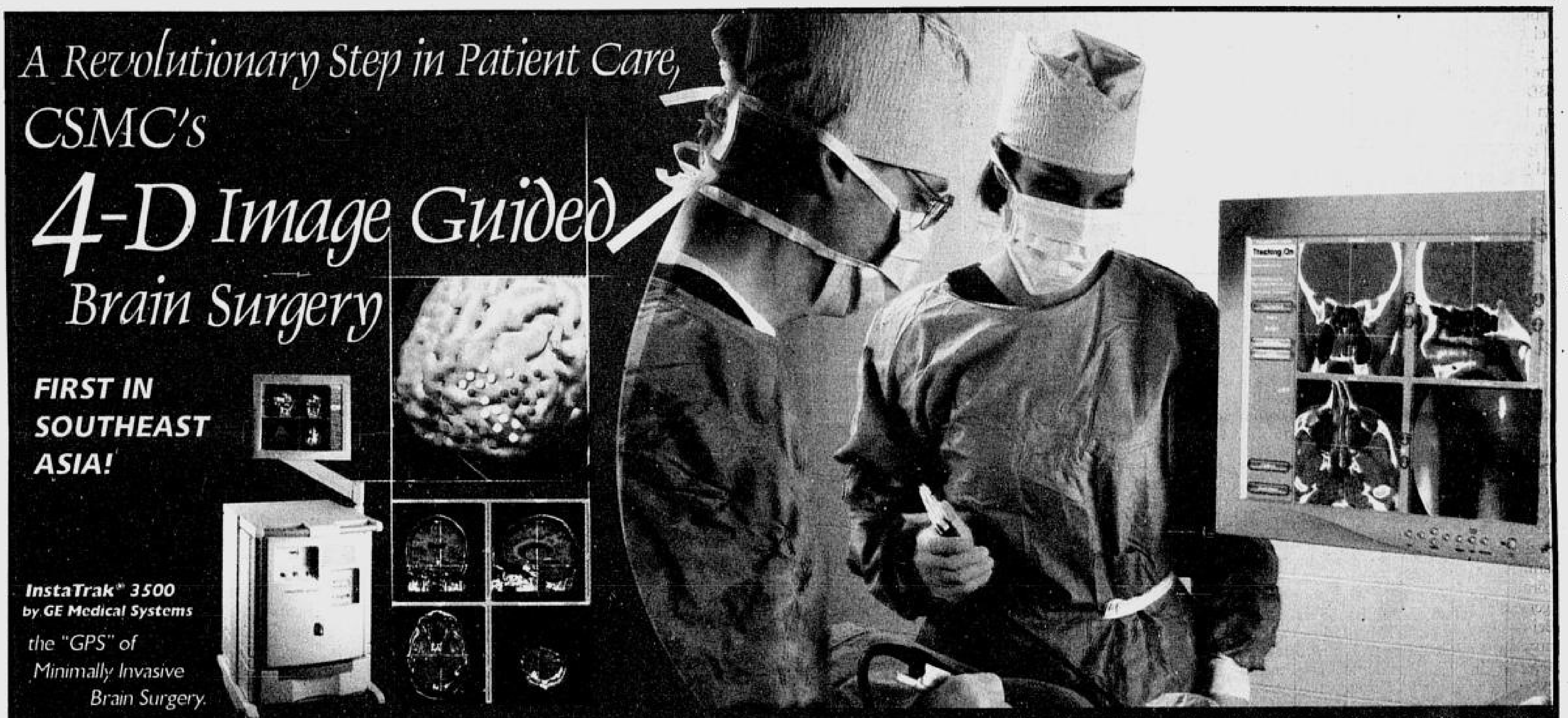
As I see it, we have only one presidential candidate who has been consistent in his position, policy and program of government—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel.

Honest, incorruptible, God-fearing, approachable and hard-working, Pimentel is the candidate we all should support and vote for next year.

Pimentel has never been involved in any scandal, scam or controversy. His life is an open book. And definitely he is not a *"trapo."*

Never again should we send a celebrity, a controversial and incompetent candidate to Malacañang. And, of course, never should we elect a liar.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO,
1 Goodenia Court,
Voyager Point, NSW,
2171 Australia



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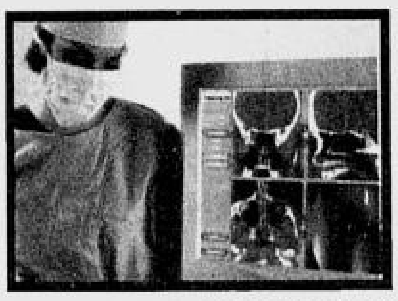

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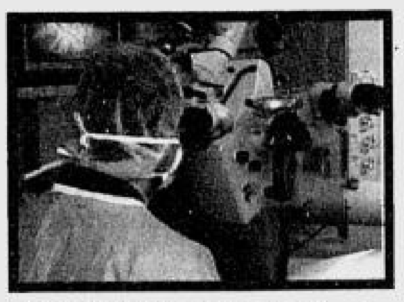

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Bishop says jueteng law a 'big joke'

DAGUPAN CITY—Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz called on the revision of the law that is supposed to deter jueteng because that law, he said, has turned into "a big joke" and a "best friend" of jueteng operators and employees.

Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, wondered why the 25-year-old Presidential Decree 1602 or anti-gambling law has not been revised as the penalty it imposes on those caught engaging in jueteng is "ridiculously very low."

For the first offense, the law imposes a prison term and a fine of P500 to P1,000. Repeat offenders are fined P1,000 to P6,000 with corresponding prison terms. The offense is bailable.

"The jueteng capitalists are in command of billions of pesos and they back all *cobradores, revisadores, boladores* and *alipores* (bet collectors, other employees and gofers). They simply pay instead of leaving (their employees) in prison. What is a few pesos to have them released in order to continue their multi-billion peso racket?" said Cruz, also the national chair of the Jueteng-Free Philippines crusade.

He said when former President Ferdinand Marcos signed PD 1602 on June 11, 1978, jueteng was a "*pera-pera*" (small-time) operation. "But now it has developed into an incredible multi-billion peso racket in the country," he said.

"While collecting billions of pesos from the poor and giving out *payola* by the millions to certain corrupt public officials and some police officials, the ridiculous penalty for those caught engaging in jueteng is ridiculous," Cruz said.

He said he was aware there are many pressing social issues demanding resolution. But, he said, jueteng was "certainly not a small social cancer" because it corrupts a large number of people from the local to the national levels of government.

Supt. Mario Sandiego, Pangasinan police director, agreed with Cruz's view that the provisions of the law are frustrating and already obsolete.

"The penalty must be stiffer," he said "The police are lobbying for the increase in penalty so it would be difficult for the juetengeros to pay it." *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'Clean' diesel arrives in Subic

By Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The first shipment of Clean Air Act compliant diesel fuel arrived in Subic Bay on Friday, more than three months ahead of the scheduled ban on the use of the current diesel in the market with 0.20 percent sulfur content.

Khun Siripong Phoungpaka, Subic Bay Distribution Inc. president, said the "clean" diesel has a low sulfur content of 0.04 percent, which is even lower than that required by the Clean Air Act by 20 percent.

SBDI is one of the joint venture firms between El Paso Corp. of the US and the PTT Public Co. Ltd. of Thailand. Its primary business is to distribute petroleum products secured from its associated company, Subic Bay Fuels Co. Inc., into the Philippine market.

The Clean Air Act of 1999 bans the manufacture, import, and selling of diesel fuel, which contains more than 0.30 percent sulfur for industrial diesel, and 0.20 percent by weight with a cetane number or index of not less than 48 for automotive diesel, by 2004.

The law will only allow diesel with sulfur content of 0.05 percent to the Philippine market by the same year.

Phoungpaka said the diesel, which arrived from the Petroleum Authority of Thailand's subsidiary refinery in Rayong, Thailand, ensures vehicles of cleaner engines, lower emissions and less maintenance.

He added that the fuel would be made available to consumers next month through independent oil players Flying V, PTT Philippines Inc. and USA88.

Calabarzon needs 850 cops, says PNP exec

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The Calabarzon police office admitted that it lacks enough manpower to secure various firms in the region.

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal said Philippine National Police Chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane had already approved their request to enlist 850 new police officers to "sustain the depleted strength of our different units within the region."

Caringal said new lawmen are needed to secure firms "that employ hundreds of foreign staff and generate millions of pesos in net earnings."

"Being the most progressive region in the country because of continued economic development, Calabarzon becomes an instant target of several crime groups. To maintain peace and order throughout the five provinces is a big challenge for us," Caringal said.

He claimed that several police stations are short of enlisted men. Only 6,555 commissioned and non-commissioned officers are deployed in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon, he said.

But despite the deficiency, he said the regional command has been able to maintain the crime rate at a "manageable level."

In the first three quarters of the year, he said his men have neutralized at least four notorious groups involved in drug peddling, highway and bank robbery, kidnapping and gun smuggling. These include the dreaded Calamba-based Tolentino-Galicia Gang and Simbahan Group of Tanauan, Batangas. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Gold counterfeit gang active again

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police officials have warned residents in Pampanga on the resurgence of operations of a gold counterfeiting syndicate in the province and nearby areas.

The alert came after the Salaguinto Gang was included in the list of suspects in the killing of Angeles City businessman Angelito Teng on Thursday in Tarlac. Two Aetas, identified only as Rudy and Robert, gunned down Teng, 56, in Barangay San Martin, Bamban town. Teng succumbed to three bullet wounds in the abdomen, a report here said. His driver, Nelson Viray, survived the attack.

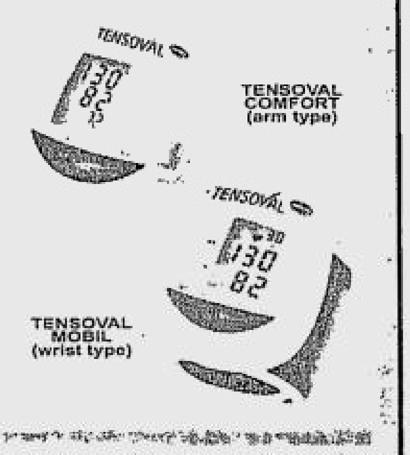
Police said Teng was in the upland village of San Martin to buy gold bars from the two Aetas. Reports were not clear as to what triggered the attack.

Retired and dismissed soldiers allegedly lead the gang that is based in Tarlac but also operates in Pampanga and Zambales.

A retired Army sergeant in Iba, Zambales was the gang's last known victim last year.

The gang's modus operandi include enticing businessmen to invest in gold hunting at Clark's Sacobia area where Japanese soldiers took refuge.

The Army's 69th Infantry Battalion had pursued members of the gang last year, recovering firearms and fake gold bars in Capas, Tarlac. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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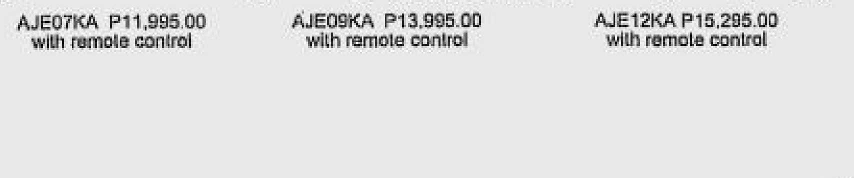

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US Marines building school in Aeta village in Tarlac

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Two days after the visit of United States President George W. Bush, 20 engineers from the US Marines are starting today the construction of a school building in an Aeta village inside a military reservation in Tarlac.

The civic action, undertaken with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, is held before the start of the 15-day Philippine-US military exercise "Talon Vision" on Nov. 1, Maj. Allan Ballesteros said.

Ballesteros, public information chief of the Clark-based 600th Air Base Wing, said the elementary school building would be put up in Barangay Maruglo inside the 17,000-hectare Crow Valley in Capas town, west of Mt. Pinatubo. Aeta children find it difficult to attend the school in Barangay Sta. Juliana because it is a three-hour walk away.

The Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom) has not yet announced the number of troops participating in the Talon Vision, which is mostly comprised of flight exercises in Clark and Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

A similar war game last year involved some 500 Filipino and American soldiers.

The VFACom said 11 small-scale exercises were due this year in Luzon. More exercises were scheduled because both the Philippine and US military saw the need for more joint activities as "follow-up of previous exercises," VFACom chief Amado Valdez said.

The war games between the Philippines and the US resumed in 1999 under the VFA.

In May last year, the 1st Aircraft Wing of the US Marine Corps built an observation post in Crow Valley. It fuelled speculations that the US military was reclaiming the Crow Valley, a gunnery range when the 13th US Air Force operated from Clark until 1991 when the Philippine Senate ordered the bases closed.

The post, located in Durungawan where the US military used to maintain a radar site, is complete with two watchtowers and two concrete landing fields. Until Mt. Pinatubo's eruption in 1991, Crow Valley contained bomb and strafe targets, a tactical range, an airfield, sophisticated radar and anti-radar equipment and a complete Russian surface-to-air missile installation. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

ANTI-BUSH RALLIES

Militant groups lie-in at the Session Road in Baguio City (left) and rally in Davao City Saturday, in protest of the visit of US President George w. Bush.

American troops readying Palawan for Balikatan, says Wescom

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Some 50 American soldiers came to the city purportedly to secure this part of the country for the arrival of US President George W. Bush last Saturday and left after the American president's departure.

But Brig. Gen. Renato Miranda, deputy commander of the Western Command here, said the American troops were preparing for Balikatan exercises in January or February next year.

American soldiers were also here two months ago. They have been reportedly surveying Palawan for the possible construction of some projects just like they did in other areas of Balikatan.

Miranda said the Balikatan in Palawan will not entail field training or exercises.

The exchange of intelligence and skills will just be on planning and it will be done inside the premises of the WesCom.

The US troops were also seen checking out the city health office. According to a city health personnel, one of the Americans asked permission from them for some medical services the soldiers will extend in due time.

The US soldiers also made a courtesy call on local government officials.

Non-government groups in the province are opposed to the Balikatan exercises.

In previous interviews, Ma. Cleofe Bernardino, executive director of the Palawan NGO Network Inc., said the Philippines has opened its doors to attacks because of its support to the US.

She also criticized the services the American soldiers are giving when there are joint military exercises just to convince the community that Balikatan is good for the country.

"Our fellowmen are made to believe that Balikatan is good but it has lot of sensitive issues," Bernardino said.

If Palawan will host Balikatan, incidents of prostitution will rise like what happened in Olongapo and Zamboanga, she added. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

5 face murder charges for ex-cop's killing

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Five people including the victim's estranged wife and a retired police are facing murder cases for the killing of a retired cop seven months ago.

In a 14-page resolution, Assistant City Prosecutor Leutfrido Sarigumba accused five people of murder for the death of Paulino Alipe. Alipe was shot to death while driving a passenger vehicle on March 19.

Among those accused of murdering Alipe were his estranged wife Delfina Maestrado, retired policeman Bernardo Magaro, barangay councilor Jessie Paluga of Candambong, Dimiao and two others who have not been identified.

In finding *prima facie* evidence against Delfina, Sarigumba said the "catena of circumstances" starting from her threat letters, her accusations and behavior on the night her husband was shot, her behavior the following days, her non-attendance at the wake and interment of her husband "inexorably narrow down and point to" her "probable culpability" in her husband's murder.

The prosecution earlier claimed letters Delfina sent while she was in Malaysia "vented her anger and hatred at her husband."

During the 14 years that Delfina was in Malaysia, the victim took another woman as his live-in partner, which the former eventually learned of.

A son of the couple stated in an affidavit that his mother even told him that the children who would take the side of their father would also be killed by the men she would hire.

Paluga was positively identified by one of Alipe's passengers as the one who pointed a gun at the passengers on the vehicle driven by the victim while the unnamed suspect shot the retired cop.

Aside from the triggerman, the other unidentified suspect was the driver of the get-away motorcycle used by the assailant in fleeing the crime scene.

Another witness revealed during investigation that Delfina confided her problem to Magaro on the night of Feb. 16.

"Don't worry about that problem with your husband, we will warn him twice. If he does not heed them, and since I stay a lot in the city, I can have him killed," the witness quoted Magaro as saying.

Quoting jurisprudence, Sarigumba wrote that "when there is no evidence to indicate that the witness for the prosecution was moved by improper motive, the presumption is that such witness was not moved and that this testimony is entitled to full faith and credit."

NDF hits revival of local peace talks in Bohol

TAGBILARAN CITY—The National Democratic Front in Central Visayas (NDF-CV) slammed the move to revive the Local Peace Forum (LPF) in Bohol, branding it as a "tactic" to divide the revolutionary movement.

"(NDF-CV) vehemently asserts that all peace negotiations with the (Philippine government) should be made only at the national level with the negotiating panel of the NDF authorized by the national leadership," said a statement signed by Mario Santos, NDF-CV chair. Military sources claim this is the nom-de-guerre of Roy Erecre, the region's top cadre.

Santos alleged that Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado revived the LPF upon orders of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He recalled that the LPF was initiated by former President Joseph Estrada but the Macapagal administration later pushed for its revival and attuned it to its campaign against the communist-led insurgency.

Santos said "localizing the peace negotiations was just a scheme meant to divide the ranks of the revolutionary movement" even as the Armed Forces of the Philippines continued with its "futile offensives against the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army and the revolutionary masses in the countryside."

Santos said Aumentado, through his Executive Order No. 32 dated Sept. 9, reorganized the LPF "and reoriented it according to the AFP's current strategy and methodology."

Santos said the LPF would put the NDF in Bohol in a bad light if it rejected local peace talks in favor of national level negotiations, justifying the AFP's intensive counter-insurgency operations "at the cost of the peasantry."

Instead of the LPF, Santos urged the resumption of peace talks between the GRP and the NDFP.

NDF-CV called on "well-meaning individuals lured by Aumentado" to bolt the LPF and to push instead "for the resumption of the peace talks between the NDFP and the GRP in Oslo, Norway." *Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Group frees endangered turtle in Quezon

PAGBILAO, Quezon—Environmentalists, government officials and the media have released a big marine turtle known here as "pawikan" or "loggerhead" (*Caretta caretta*) back to Tayabas Bay.

Nilo Ramoso Jr., official of the Pawikan Conservation Project-Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau, said their office has recorded only five "loggerhead" encounters in Philippine seas.

"Most of them have the Japanese tag numbers, so most probably, these kinds of turtles originate from Japanese seas."

"What we have released was the first loggerhead encounter in this part of the country," he said. The shell of the "loggerhead" turtle was measured 77.5 centimeters long and 71.6 centimeters wide.

Miss Earth-Canada, Brooke Elizabeth Johnston, also took part in the "release to freedom ceremony" during the launching of "Save Endangered Species" campaign.

The kick-off campaign initiated by Tanggol Kalikasan, a legal defense center for environmental protection, was held at the Silangang Nayon Park and Restaurant in Barangay Bantigue, along the cost of Pagbilao Cove. Before the turtle was set free in the open seas of Pagbilao Cove, the "loggerhead" was baptized "batis," the Pilipino translation for the name of the Canadian beauty.

Three of the five turtles being kept in a makeshift cage near the bamboo pier by the Pardilla family, the restaurant owners, have been scheduled for release. But the other two were elusive so the team decided to postpone the release.

Lawyer Asis Perez, area director of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, lamented that the unabated unlawful catching of marine turtles have been going on for quite sometime in Quezon seas. He said that in most part of the coastal areas in the province, the turtle eggs and meat is considered an "exotic delicacy."

"It seems the people are not yet aware that there are laws that prohibit catching of endangered species like the marine turtle. The campaign will now serve as the vehicle for the information and education of the people," he said.

Perez said Section 97 of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 prohibits "fishing or taking of rare, threatened or endangered species." He said marine turtle poaching is punishable by 12 to 20 years imprisonment.

It was learned that the "pawikan" is listed as an endangered species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The sea turtle faces threat because of their highly attractive shells. In Japan alone, "bekko," a Japanese word for the turtle shell commands good prized as ornamental pieces.

He told the INQUIRER that he accidentally discovered the sea turtles. The owners bought the "pawikan" from the local fishermen for P800 to P1,000 each, to serve as come-ons for customers.

He said his office immediately negotiated for the release of the turtles with the owners. "When they were enlightened on the endangered situation of the marine turtles, we set a date for the turtle's release," he said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

THE TURTLE was released in the Pagbilao waters.

ROUNDUP

4 loggers nabbed

SAMPALOC, Quezon—Police arrested at least four suspected illegal loggers on Wednesday. A report said the arresting team led by Insp. Fernando Reyes III also seized an Isuzu Elf minitruck driven by Crisanto Chavez, loaded with suspected illegally cut coconut trees measuring about 3,400 board feet. Investigators said a complaint was being prepared against the arrested suspects and the owner of the cargo, which they identified as Renato Oabel, of Barangay West Palale, Tayabas, Quezon. The seized coconut lumber has been turned over to the officials of the Philippine Coconut Authority for proper disposition.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 commit suicide

A PAWNSHOP proprietor in Guinyangan, Quezon and a student in Batangas City committed suicide on Tuesday and Monday last week, respectively. A police report said Gil Imperial-Parro, 40, had a drinking session with his friends in his house. When his friends had left, several shots were heard. Police found a .22-cal. revolver loaded with five ammunitions and three empty shells from the weapon. In Batangas, police said Raffy Samarita, 21, of Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro was found hanging from a nylon cord inside the comfort room of his boarding house on Tuesday. Samarita, a student of Lyceum, Batangas, was said to have recently broke up with his girlfriend. Police found a message on the tile wall of the comfort room that could have been written by Samarita before he committed suicide. The message was a last will on how he must be buried and a request to his friends to take care of his former girlfriend.

Delfin Mallari Jr. and Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Firearms seized

CAMP GEN. SIMEON OLA—The Army's 31st Infantry Battalion has recovered at least four high power firearms after an encounter with about 20 armed communist rebels at Sitio Lomanti, Barangay Iraya Sur, San Lorenzo Ruiz, Camarines Norte. Among those recovered were three M-16 rifles, a .45 pistol, seven backpacks and antigovernment documents. Lt. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, Chief of the Southern Luzon Command ordered hot pursuit operation against the fleeing rebels.

Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Struck by lightning

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY—An Army soldier was killed while six others were hurt when their group was struck by lightning while securing the area where the helicopter of President Macapagal-Arroyo landed in Barangay Minuyan here on Saturday. Police said Pfc. Edwin Duran died while being taken to the San Jose del Monte City District Hospital. Pfc. Christian Dungo, Marzan Conga, Christopher Lupad and Tatezan Postillos; Private Ryan Parauigan and Cpl. Michael Foronda were hurt and were taken to the V. Luna Hospital in Quezon City. Reports said the lightning struck as strong rains were pouring and the soldiers were huddled under a tree.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Street kids' shelter

DAGUPAN CITY—The Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI) last week led the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Regional Center for Children in this city. Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia and CSFI president, said the center would serve as a shelter and rehabilitation facility for street children of Pangasinan. De Venecia said the center would provide a home-like atmosphere, counseling services and livelihood training for homeless children. Two other groundbreaking ceremonies for CSFI centers were held in Solana, Cagayan and Tarlac City last week.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Farmers urge repeal of 1995 Tariff Act

BAGUIO CITY—Farmers are lobbying for the repeal of a 1995 tariff reduction law that has prevented Malacañang from correcting the downturn of Philippine agriculture.

Lulu Jimenez, education director of the farmers' group Apit-Tako, said the 1995 Agriculture Tariffication Act applies the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), which obliges member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to gradually wipe out taxes on imported goods, including vegetables.

The vegetable belt of Benguet and Mt. Province successfully lobbied for a 25-percent tariff cover for imported vegetables, with the support of President Macapagal-Arroyo, only to discover that the law prevents such a solution.

"You need to remove the law to restore the original tariff cover for agriculture," said Jimenez.

The Tariff Commission had advised both Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas and Mt. Province Gov. Sario Malinias about the law's prescriptions, Jimenez said.

But action on the tariff law would be the subject of a meeting this month among congressmen, farmers and traders that would evaluate the country's bargaining position before the WTO, she said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon urged the government last week to begin getting consensus from various sectors, including farmers, about the government's globalization stance before the WTO assembly opens in December in Geneva, Switzerland.

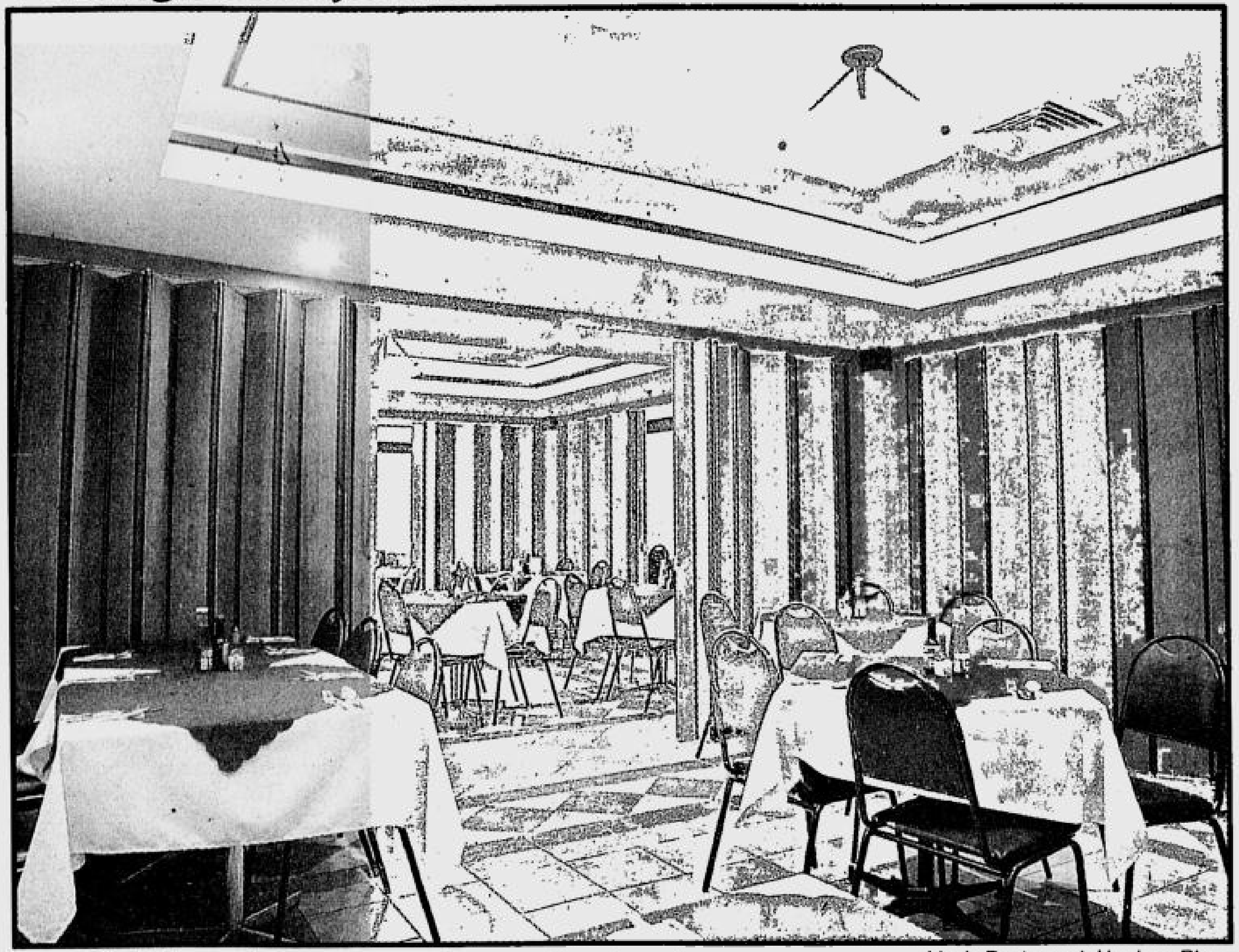
On Sunday, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the government is prepared to do that now that it has reversed its position on global trade by seeking a stop to "accelerated globalization." Following the collapse of the Apit-Tako's members organized a food exhibit on Wednesday to dramatize the World Rural Women's Month and the World Foodless Day on Oct. 16.

They said imported salad vegetables from China and Europe had forced Cordillera farmers to cut half of their seasonal production in 2002. Benguet produces 70 percent of the country's potato and cabbage supply, and generates up to 111 million kilograms a year.

Molintas said farmers required more subsidies to cope with global trade, contrary to the government's position seeking a parallel reduction of farm subsidy covering farmers in the United States, Japan and Europe.

Jimenez said few farmers groups were aware about the tariff law that sets deadlines for the government to remove certain import taxes between 2004 and 2010.

"They have been asking the executive department to act on (their predicament) when it is Congress which should have made the difference," she said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Best mayor hails from unknown Laguna town

PANGIL, Laguna—This obscure town has just produced the best mayor in the country.

Pangil municipal mayor Sergio Manzana bested nine other outstanding municipal executives and hundreds of other nominees throughout the archipelago and won the Most Outstanding Mayor in the Philippines title, according to the selection committee for the Local Government Leadership Awards (LGEA).

The LGLA committee is co-chaired by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr.

Aside from a plaque of appreciation, Manzana also received P1.5 million worth of projects for the municipality, and P100,000 cash award for his personal use, among other incentives.

Manzana has been Pangil mayor since 1995.

As mayor of a fifth-class municipality, he has accomplished a long list of projects amid meager income using the following strategies: Optimization of resources, prioritization, brokering of domestic/foreign assistance, partnership and counterparting, and very honest implementation.

As a good mayor-manager, he motivates people to work hard and to volunteer through his example of selflessness and dedication.

A Bachelor of Science in Economics graduate and a Masters in Business Administration candidate at the Ateneo de Manila University, Manzana was a member of the Ateneo Faculty in 1969-70, a college instructor in another school, proprietor of a family business, and vice president of the Home Development Mutual Fund or Pag-Ibig.

Before becoming mayor, Manzana served the Catholic Parish Church as president of the Parish Pastoral Council for several years.

While serving the Church, he initiated various renovation projects of the church.

He was born in this town on Sept. 9, 1948 to Dominador Valera Manzana, a retired municipal judge and a long-time mayor of Pangil, and Laura Alvarez Cahapisan, who assists in managing the family business and farm.

Manzana left a high-paying job and turned to managing and developing his poor small hometown of Pangil, which has a population of about 15,000.

Mostly of the Pangil folk are engaged in farming, fishing, private business and employment.

The nine other town mayors who were also selected as outstanding mayor are: Emilio Ramon-Ejercito (Pagsanjan); Edwin Hamor (Casiguran, Sorsogon); Cesar Tomas Lopez (Loon, Bohol); Cherlito Macas (Linamon, Lanao del Norte); Marcel Pan (Goa, Camarines Sur); Ramon Piang Sr. (Upi, Maguindanao); Roberto Saulog (Sigma, Capiz); Betty Versola (Luna, Apayao); and Dixon Yasay (Opol, Misamis Oriental). *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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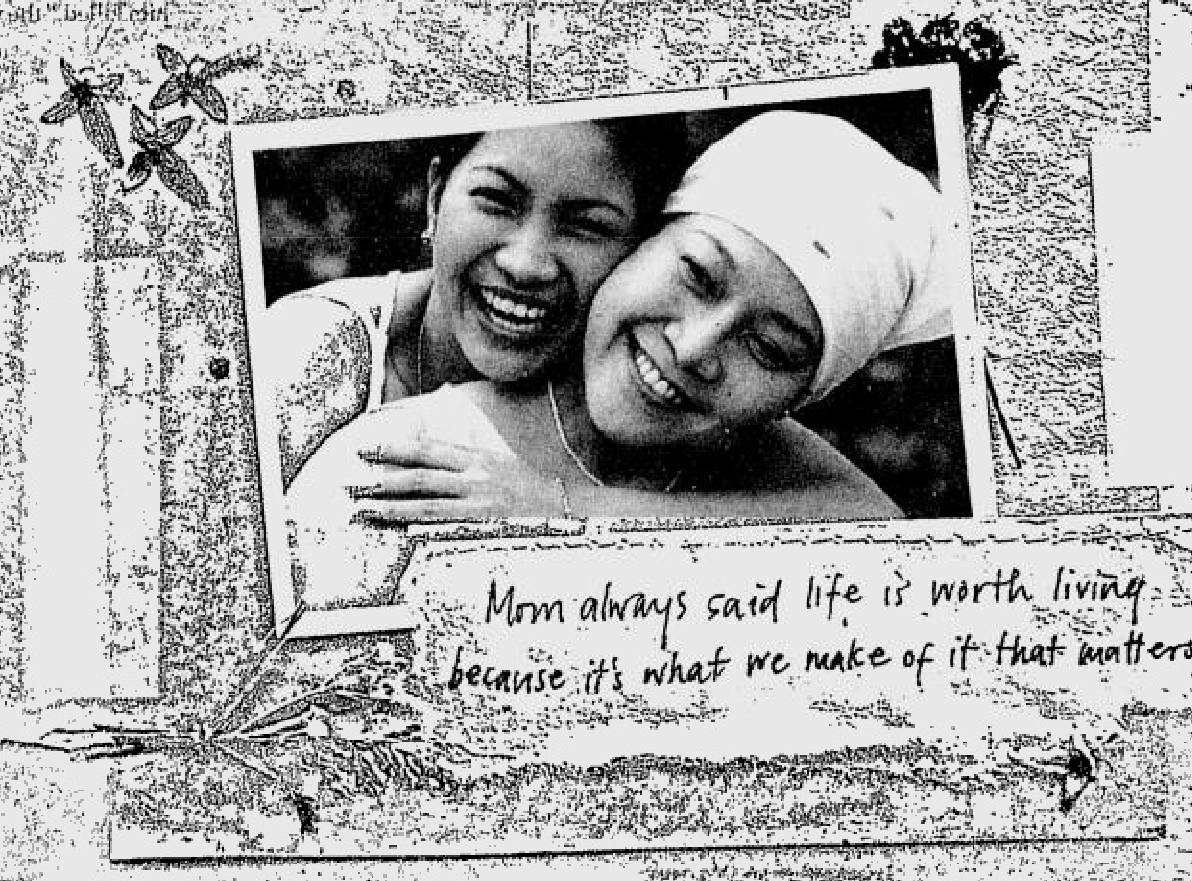
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Mother Teresa: Up close …

From page A1

the Philippines, I wasted no time to serve as a volunteer at its Home for the Dying Destitute, that place in Tayuman where the sisters would load their pickup with sick and homeless old people gathered from Manila's streets. I knew that I would be enriched by the experience—cleaning toilets, hanging laundry, feeding and bathing patients, trimming their hair or nails, giving them a back rub, talking to them, cheering them up, and trying to give them the love their own families would not give. Thus, I was no longer a stranger to the sisters when they announced that Mother Teresa was coming to visit the Philippines.

"I must meet this person," I promised myself, although I must admit that half my eagerness was out of journalistic curiosity. In this day and age, someone like Mother Teresa would be a rarity and make a good story. But most of all, I had hoped I would be given a peek into the soul of this diminutive Albanian nun whose name I could not even pronounce the same way twice: Gonxha Agnes Bojaxhiu.

Two Teresas

And it came to pass. As fate would have it, the interview that I had wanted turned into more of an intimate exchange between two Teresas. But I neither imagined that Mother Teresa would leave such a deep and lasting impression on me more than any other human alive, nor cared that she would one day be elevated to the altar of the blessed in the Vatican.

Upon seeing Mother Teresa, I almost forgot about journalism. I heard and saw her speak to the crowd—she impressed me. But I didn't want to interview or photograph her, write a story, what not. I just wanted to listen on and on. I sensed that she would be more than just a scoop for me, so I simply asked to be blessed by her (*"Mano po!"*).

She obliged and then gave me much, much more: she held my hand, and as we walked she spoke to me as though nobody else mattered at the moment but me. I got hooked.

Her intensity amazed me. Since then I wanted to see and listen to her again and again, wherever and whenever possible, so I could dissect her mind: How could this busybody be so focused on and loving toward a stranger like me?

Having been inspired and touched by her, I even wrote her Calcutta house to apply as a month-long volunteer there. My application was politely declined, with a handwritten note that I stay and continue to volunteer in Manila where I was needed more. The Calcutta house was already crowded with volunteers from all over the world, while there were not enough in Manila.

Mother Teresa wasn't pretty as some nuns I'd remember from childhood who appealed to me because they resembled the Virgin Mary in my imagination. Small and slightly hunched, she had a face so badly creased, a peasant's hands, and a nose so big it could be a caricaturist's delight; yet when I was with her, there was nothing else I'd rather look at but her. There was nobody else more beautiful. She was so saturated with Jesus' presence that when she'd speak, Jesus would come alive through her words—Jesus, Jesus and only Jesus—as if even she herself did not exist.

Citizen of the world

Although we were both "world citizens," our world citizenship diverged where heaven began. As she would say, "By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus."

There she was when we met, already strolling with Jesus while I was still attempting to rise, on wobbly knees, from crawling. Thus, I looked up to her and appointed her my "spiritual nanny." Of course, she was not aware that she was one of those teaching me how to walk. By her witness and example conveyed to the whole world by media, I gradually absorbed lessons on walking with Jesus.

On detachment from worldly goods: Mother Teresa and her sisters had only rickety pickups serving as ambulance. A wealthy man took note of this and gifted Mother Teresa with a limousine for her personal use. She raffled the limo off and with the proceeds bought ambulances. The winner, in turn, raffled it off again and donated the proceeds to Mother Teresa's poor.

On seeing Jesus in every person: Mother Teresa saw, respected and loved Jesus in each of them. Thus, it was easy for her to embrace the poorest of the poor, the filthiest of society's unwanted. She felt privileged to dress their wounds and clean up their mess because she was doing it for Jesus. No doubt inspired by St. Therese, a spiritual daughter of St. John of the Cross who taught that if we want to love Jesus we must expose ourselves to the smelly, the ignorant, the ugly in our midst.

On the value of discomfort: In all of Mother Teresa's houses, the words "I thirst" are written close to the crucifix. Chapels have no pews or comfortable seats. Instead, the floor is lined with native mats where the sisters would sit or kneel on at prayer. That is how they stay awake with Jesus.

On trusting in Divine Providence: One day, the Calcutta community's coffers were empty, and so was the pantry. There wasn't even enough bread for the day's last meal, and they were sure the morrow would be a bigger headache.

Undaunted, Mother Teresa calmly led the sisters to pray that the next day might be better so as not to starve the patients. That very night, a truckload of bread arrived, an unsolicited donation from a bakery chain. Little miracles like this have become commonplace in Mother Teresa's houses that you can't help being reminded of the day Jesus fed over 5,000 people from five loaves and two fish. Her example shone in a world where Christians worshipped Christ on Sundays and worried to death for bread the rest of the week.

On simplicity and contentment: Mother Teresa's Sisters wear no shoes, only cheap rubber thong sandals, but they are by far the happiest community of nuns I have seen in my whole life. They want for nothing—what the poor can't have, they do not want to have. Sometimes, I wish the rich women in the Philippines would realize that they could help solve our country's problems if they would only give up at least one pair of their Manolo Blahniks, for Jesus' sake.

On time management: With the demands of her work among the needy, you would think Mother Teresa would have no more time to waste on "doing nothing." On the contrary, this "idle time" is her trysting period with God, and she would exhort her nuns to faithfully keep their appointments with Jesus day and night. Sitting still and emptying themselves at prayer time is fundamental to their mission. It is when they fill themselves with Jesus, that they may in turn pour out His love on thirsting humanity.

On joy being the fruit of the Spirit: In all the years I have served as a Mother Teresa volunteer, I have yet to see a sister lose her cool. No matter how difficult a patient is—sick and old people can be unnerving, mind you—the sisters would be not only calm and collected but also cheerful. Not a trace of impatience in their countenance, an enviable fruit of unceasing surrender to Jesus that forms a vital part of Mother Teresa's legacy to her daughters and to the world.

Erap yearns …

From page A1

cente Sotto III expressed support for the transfer.

It was about time, Sotto said, that Estrada be placed under house arrest as the latter had shown in the past two years that he was putting up a legal defense against the plunder charges against him.

"It will show compassion as far as the courts and the administration is concerned," Sotto said in a phone interview.

The transfer, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said, would be a "good gesture," but he stressed that it was the Sandiganbayan's call.

Administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan said Estrada's transfer to another detention center should be approved, provided that "it is left to the decision of the Sandigan free of any outside interference."

"And provided that the former President's safety is not compromised," Pangilinan said.

Security threat

At present, Noble said, Estrada would stay at the nearby Camp Capinpin "for as long as the security threat is there."

Estrada has been held in a bungalow surrounded by barbed wire inside the headquarters of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division since Thursday, because of a purported threat being hatched against him in time for US President George W. Bush's state visit on Saturday.

Until yesterday, police officials were tightlipped on details of the alleged threat. No one elaborated on PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.'s claim earlier that the plot was much more "serious and sophisticated" than the one purportedly planned at the height of the July 27 power grab.

Back then, some PNP and Armed Forces officials claimed that mutinous soldiers and loyalists planed to pluck Estrada out of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center and proclaim him the "rightful" president at the Edsa Shrine.

But Noble yesterday did not say if the supposed threat the PNP discovered last week was still a live one.

After Camp Capinpin, the official said the Tanay resort would be a much better detention cell for Estrada than the VMMC.

The rest house is not accessible to groups that might be planning to harm Esrada or spring him from jail, he said.

"It would also be much cheaper there because we won't have to deploy a huge number of policemen all the time," he said.

In a previous interview, Noble said securing Estrada at the VMMC was somehow a "nightmare" for the PNP, primarily because it is a hospital located in the middle of busy Quezon City.

'Kaingin' site

Estrada said he acquired the land in 1969 at P2 per square meter. Locals interviewed by the INQUIRER said the area used to be just another *kaingin* (slash-and burn farming) site until Estrada developed it.

Originally, the size of the land he bought from a private landowner was 21 hectares, but this was later reduced to 15 hectares with the construction of the two-lane Marcos Highway, he said.

Estrada said he enjoyed the place more regularly—particularly on weekends and on his birthday—when he was still mayor of San Juan.

But the major structures fell into disrepair and the ground went untended when he became a senator in 1988, because he had less and less time for it.

For business purposes, he had the place called the "JE Youth Camp" and opened its facilities for a fee to mountain hikers, including Boy Scouts and ROTC officers, at "P2 per head."

Religious groups also used it for their Lenten retreats, he also recalled.

Due to the estate's sloping terrain and abundance of trees, none of the amenities can be seen from the gate manned by private security guards.

Residents, tricycle drivers, and soldiers based in Capinpin are also very much aware that the place belonged to "Erap."

"I used to see Fernando Poe Jr. (the actor, and Estrada's closest friend) going there during Erap's birthday parties," recalled a resident minding a small grocery store nearby.

Wild boar

One past guest of the compound—who has become Estrada's chief tormentor in the courtroom—said "JE" was vast enough and so lush with vegetation in the past that "you can go out hunting for wild boar."

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio recalled that some 18 years ago, he was one of the local prosecutors who used the resort for a seminar.

It was Villa-Ignacio who tantalizingly recalled before reporters that Estrada had a "Mediterranean-style villa" inside the property.

When Estrada heard of the lawyer's remark, his temper flared. He insisted that his personal quarters there was a mere "one-bedroom house."

Located in Barangay Sampaloc, the JE compound is separated from the camp's perimeter fence merely by the two-lane highway. Its gate is about 200 meters away from that of the Army base.

Sampaloc is a 15-minute drive from the town hall, its part of the highway used mostly by tricycles and unregistered jeepneys going from Tanay to Infanta, Quezon.

Already, Estrada, who is currently held at a bungalow inside the camp, has been complaining of bad TV reception and poor cell phone signal.

But he said he was finally breathing fresh air and exercising his "sunning" rights, something which he missed during his two-year stay at the VMMC. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

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It's crisp-fried catfish for GMA

From page A1

else, like Japanese Prime Minister Junichi Koizumi, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, picked the predictable, *tom yum kung* or hot-and-sour soup.

The Apec leaders' Thai food preferences made it to the front pages of the local papers Bangkok Post and The Nation.

The stories noted that most of the top-level guests, among the most powerful men in the world, had one tiny request: easy on the spices.

To make *yam pla duk foo*, the catfish is first boiled and then its meat is minced and fried to a crisp. The dish is garnished with lemon and a distinctive sauce.

Another head of state who knows his Thai food, Taiwanese leader Lee Yuan-tseh, asked for *tom kha kai*, which is chicken in coconut milk and Thai herbs.

Apec spouses also had their say. For instance, the Peruvian first lady specified vegetarian dishes. The Chinese first lady said she would bring her own food.

There was no mention of Philippine First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's options.

The menu for tonight's gala dinner is said to have taken a year to deliberate. The final selection also includes stir-fried Phuket lobsters; *thung thong*, or golden shrimp pockets; *paeng isib* or steamed minced chicken and peanuts; and grilled sirloin of beef with Thai dressing.

Desserts include fresh coconut ice cream, steamed pumpkin custard, traditional Thai sweets, and tropical fruits in season, which had better include the stinkiest *durian* they can find.

While in Bangkok, Ms Macapagal is also expected to indulge her craving for the fruit known as the "skunk of the orchards," a delicacy in most Southeast Asian countries.

"She was raised in a place in Mindanao where they grow *durian*," her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, yesterday told Reuters. "When in Thailand, she prefers the local variety."

In May last year, to cement relations with the Philippines, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra threw a special "*durian* buffet" for Ms Macapagal, serving up three varieties, plus *durian*-flavored ice cream and *durian*-stuffed moon cakes.

Apparently to avoid a repeat of President George Bush Sr.'s fainting spell after downing a dish of sushi during a state dinner in Tokyo more than a decade ago, hundreds of chefs, waiters and dishwashers contracted for the summit today and tomorrow underwent rectal swab tests for contagious disease and parasites.

They were also checked for dandruff and ringworm.

Expectedly, opposition politicians protested that rectal swabs were going a bit too far.

At the press center, the concern is less about food than drinks. Beer and alcohol amounting to 170,000 baht (more than $4,000) were reportedly consumed in one day alone, redeemed with food coupons issued to newsmen. *With a report from Reuters*

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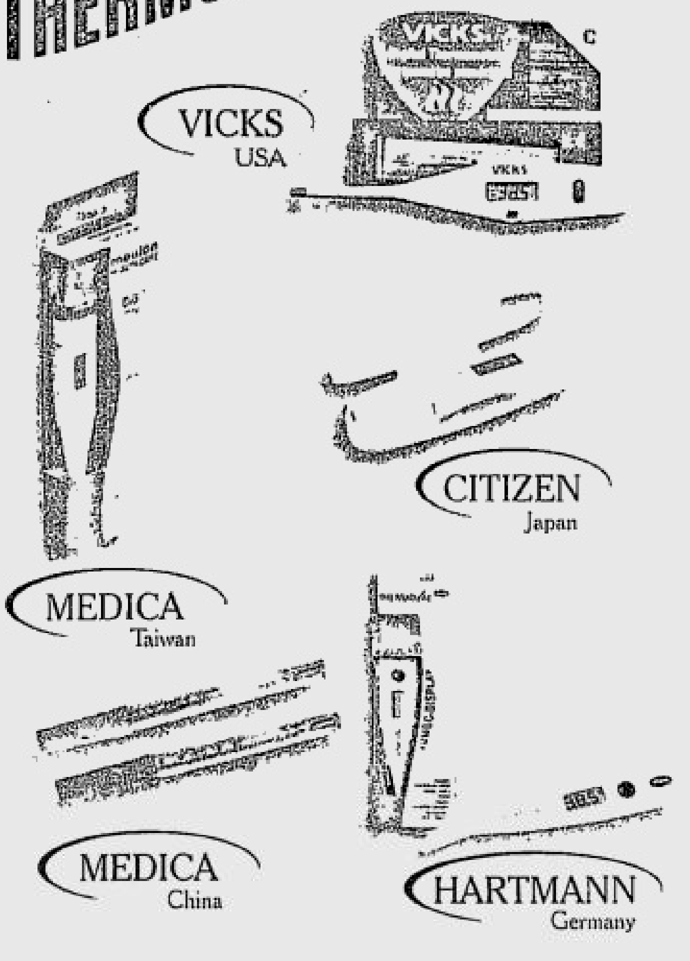

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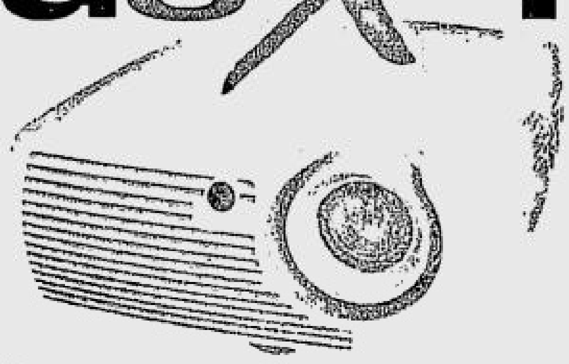

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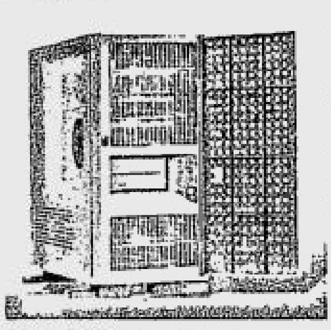

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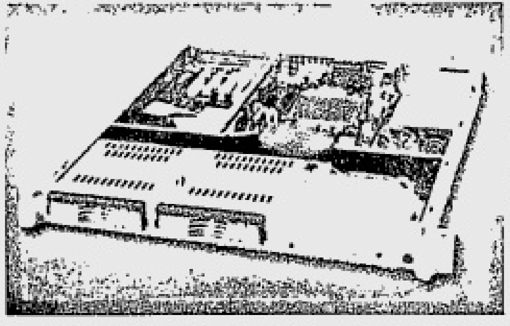

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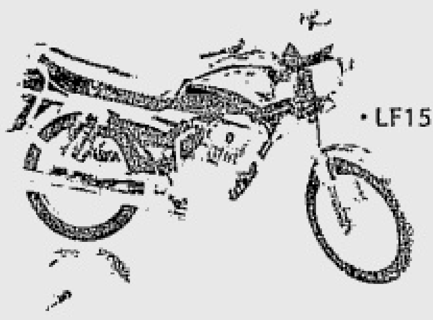
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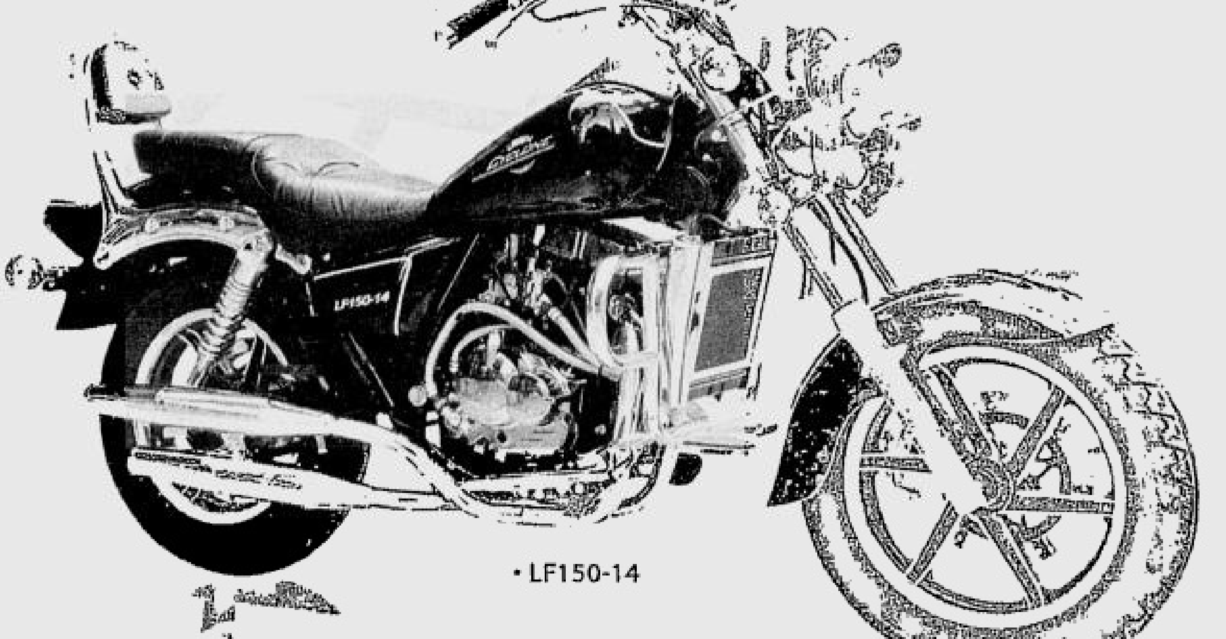
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SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE　E-mail:nmicphil@netscape.net　OCTOBER 20 - 24, 2003

Meat Safety Consciousness Week celebration reels off October 20-24

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo supports "Certified Meat for a Healthy Citizenry" drive

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has called on the country's meat regulatory agency to guarantee the health and safety of the citizenry through the proper regulation and accreditation of meat establishments.

The President made the call as the Department of Agriculture - National Meat Inspection Commission is spearheading the nationwide celebration of Meat Safety Consciousness Week this October 20-24, 2003.

The activity is designed to raise awareness on the importance of safe meat to public health and the country's welfare. With the theme: "Certified Meat for a Healthy Citizenry", the activity aims to protect consumers from the risk or danger of consuming uninspected or uncertified meat by informing them of the quality of the meat that may have been infected with disease-causing pathogens.

The activity's highlights include the month-long (Oct. 1 -31) Oplan Linis Bahay Katayan in all of the country's accredited slaughterhouses; the awarding ceremony on October 22, 2003 of the national winners of this year's Search for Best Meat Establishment; the conduct of a Meat Fair on October 20-24; the simultaneous reading on October 20, 2003 of the "Certified Meat for a Healthy Citizenry" message in all regions; radio and TV plugs promoting the patronage of safe and quality meat; and other related activities.

Another significance of the Meat Safety Consciousness Week is that it is a reminder to the meat establishment operators of their responsibilities in letting their operations strictly adhere to internationally accepted GMPs, SSOPs, HACCP, and all other pertinent rules and regulations governing the preparation and handling of meat and its by-products.

Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Inculcate, foster discipline throughout the local meat industry - Sec. Lorenzo

Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo, Jr. said the Department would continue to support DA-NMIC in all its programs and activities to fulfil its mandate. But he has called for a doubling of efforts in inculcating and fostering discipline throughout the local meat industry. This is to enable the small farmers, processors and entrepreneurs to face the threats posed today the industry by the fierce global competition. One great task is to protect the industry from unsafe and unfair practices, which compromise product quality and safety.

Bearing in mind the "Go Modern Agriculture" (GMA) thrust of the Macapagal-Arroyo Administration, Secretary Lorenzo is for a more productive, self-sufficient, and globally competitive agriculture sector. He asked the DA-NMIC and the rest of the DA family to contribute greatly, with diligent efforts, towards that goal's realization.

DA-NMIC plays a crucial role in the development and growth of the local meat industry. It is the government's arm in protecting the welfare and interests of both meat producers and consumers. It actively pursues the present Administration's thrust of food safety and security. Its mandate is to ensure the proper preparation and handling of meat and meat by-products through the strict implementation of laws and regulations pertaining to meat hygiene and inspection in the country.

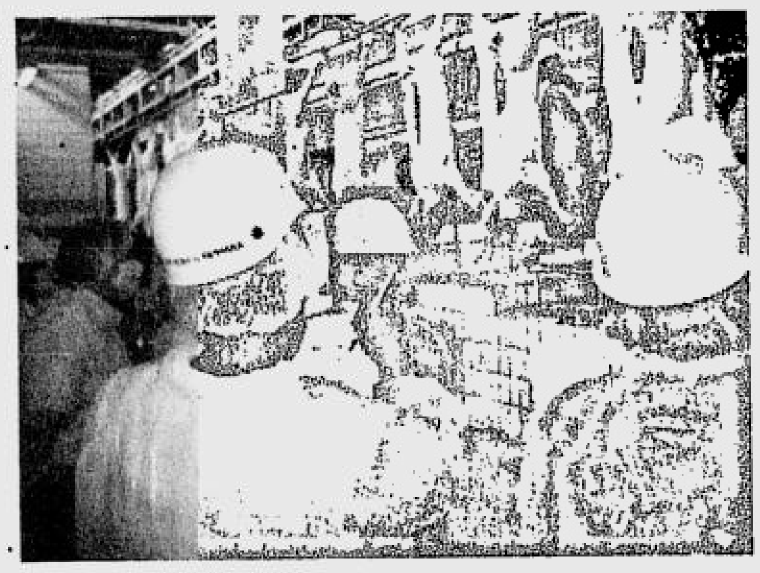
Agriculture Secretary Luis Luis P. Lorenzo, Jr. (foregraound, right) cutting a carcass after the awarding of the certificate of accreditation at the VFC Abattoir in Victorias City. Beside the Secretary is Dr. Efren C. Nuestro, Executive Director of the NMIC.

HACCP implementation to up export of RP meat products

The successful conduct recently of the "Orientation Seminar on Good Manufacturing Practices, Sanitary Standard Operating Procedures, and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point for Quality Assurance Officers of All DA-NMIC Accredited Meat Establishments in Luzon" has put on course the agency's determined program of modernizing the country's meat inspection service.

With over 150 participants representing most, if not all, of the country's "AAA" and "AA" accredited meat establishments, the activity provided updates on the mandatory application of the HACCP system in those establishments that produce safe and quality meat and meat products for both national and international distribution.

HACCP is a set of procedures that determines and eliminates hazards, or potential hazards, at every stage of preparation and handling of meat products. Its successful application in the Philippines would make the country more credible and competitive as a producer of export quality meat products.



☐ NMIC HACCP auditors during one of the actual audit of a meat establishment.

Congress to tackle Meat Inspection Code

DA-NMIC believes the enactment of the Meat Inspection (MI) bill would make clearer and more relevant the role of the government in protecting public health and in promoting the country's economy through the development of the local meat industry.

House Bill No. 5995, introduced by Congressman Alfredo G. Marañon, Jr., is entitled: "An Act Strengthening the Meat Inspection System in the Philippines, Integrating All Laws, Rules and Regulations Pertinent to Meat and for Other Purposes."

Its Senate version, Senate Bill No. 2557, introduced by Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay, Jr., is entitled: "An Act Strengthening the Meat Inspection System in the Country, Ordaining for this Purpose a Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines."

Dr. Efren C. Nuestro, DA-NMIC executive director, said the bill would be equivalent to the meat inspection codes of other countries, provides for an effective and efficient meat inspection system.

"It would be a system that would not compromise the integrity of the safety and quality of meat and meat products during preparation, handling and distribution."

The bill codifies all issuances pertaining to meat hygiene and inspection, harmonize Philippine regulations with international standards, and further professionalize the country's meat inspection service.

A joint Senate and House Committees on Agriculture, Food and Fisheries secretariat has already consolidated the two versions and the consolidated bill is now up for approval by the committees before presentation for floor deliberation at both house chambers.

Regional winners for Best Meat Establishments 2003 announced

A total of 6 "AAA", 10 "AA" and 4 "A" abattoirs, 2 "AAA", 12 "AA" and one "A" poultry dressing plants, 7 "AAA" and 9 "AA" meat processing plants, and one "AA" lechon house bested other regional entries in the DA-NMIC-sponsored Search for Best Meat Establishment 2003.

The "AAA" abattoirs or slaughterhouses are Monterey Foods Corp. at Langkaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite; Sunpride Foods, Inc. at Paknaan, Mandaue City; St. Jude at Sta. Ana, Tagaloan, Misamis Oriental; Nenita Quality Foods Corp. at Marapangi, Toril, Davao City; and Purefoods-Hormel Co., Inc at San Roque, Marikina.

The "AA" abattoir regional winners are Bacnotan Municipal Slaughterhouse at Bacnotan, La Union; Rombe Eximtrade Phils., Inc. at Pulilan, Bulacan; Rublou Meat Products at Cainta, Rizal; Masbate City Slaughterhouse at Kinamaligan, Masbate City; Victorias Food Corp. at Victorias City, Negros Occidental; Dumaguete City Slaughterhouse at Dumaguete City; Dipolog City Slaughterhouse at Dicayas, Dipolog City; Del Monte Philis., Inc. at San Miguel, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon; Modern City Abattoir at Bislig City, CARAGA: and Kalookan Abattoir at Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City.

The "A" abattoir regional winners are Mapandan Municipal Abattoir at Mapandan, Pangasinan; Talugtug Municipal Abattoir at Talugtug, Nueva Ecija; Cadiz Municipal Abattoir at Tinampaan, Cadiz City; and Palompon Municipal Abattoir at Palompon, Leyte.

The two "AAA" poultry dressing plants vying for the category's top award this year are SMFI-Magnolia in San Fernando, Pampanga, and San Miguel Foods, Inc. in Davao City.

The "AA" poultry dressing plants regional winners are LDP Farms at Rabon, Rosario, La Union; ARS at Santiago City, Region II; May Harvest Corp. at Sta. Maria, Bulacan; Pililla Poultry Processing Plant, Inc. at Pililla, Rizal; Palmas Agri-Business, Inc. at Anislag, Daraga, Albay; Malogo Agri-Vent. & Mgt. Serv. at Hacienda Binoga, Guinhalaran, Silay City, Negros Occidental; Swift Foods, Inc. at Tabok, Mandaue City; AOG Enterprises at Valencia, Ormoc City; Zamboanga Agri-Venture, Inc. at Boalan, Zamboanga City; ELIM Agricultural Supply at Mialen, Clarin, Misamis Occidental; Davao Fresh Foods Corp. at Tugbok, Davao City; and Green Pine Agricultural Dev't. Corp. at Taguibo, Butuan City.

Leticia Meneses Poultry Dressing Plant at Nibaliw, Navarre, San Fabian, Pangasinan topped the "A" category.

The regional winners for "AAA" meat processing plants are Mekeni Foods Corp. at Balubad, Porac, Pampanga; Genosi, Inc. at Sto. Domingo, Cainta, Rizal; First Farmers Food Corp. at Dos Hermanas, Talisay City, Negros Occidental; Sunpride Foods, Inc. at Basak, Mandaue City; Oro Maiden Star, Inc. at Mahalinan, Lower Jasaan, Misamis Oriental; Nenita Quality Foods Corp. at Marapangi, Davao City; and Purefoods-Hormel Co., Inc. at San Roque, Marikina City.

The "AA" meat processing plant regional winners are Kenglen Enterprises, Inc. at Pagdalangan Sur, Bauang, La Union; Roel's Food Corp. a Farmsville, Duquit, Mabalacat Pampanga; LC Big Mak Burger Inc. at Domoit, Lucena City Bigg's Inc. at San Felipe, Nag City; Victorias Food Corp. a Victorias City, Negros Occidental Lami Foods Prod. Corp. at Tipolo Mandaue City; Slers Industries Inc. at Gusa, Cagayan de Or City; Sirawan Ice Plant, Inc. a Sirawan, Toril, Davao City; an MLM Foods Corp. at Muntinlup City.

The awarding ceremonies fo the national winners will tak place on October 22, 2003, the las day of the Meat Safet Consciousness Week celebration

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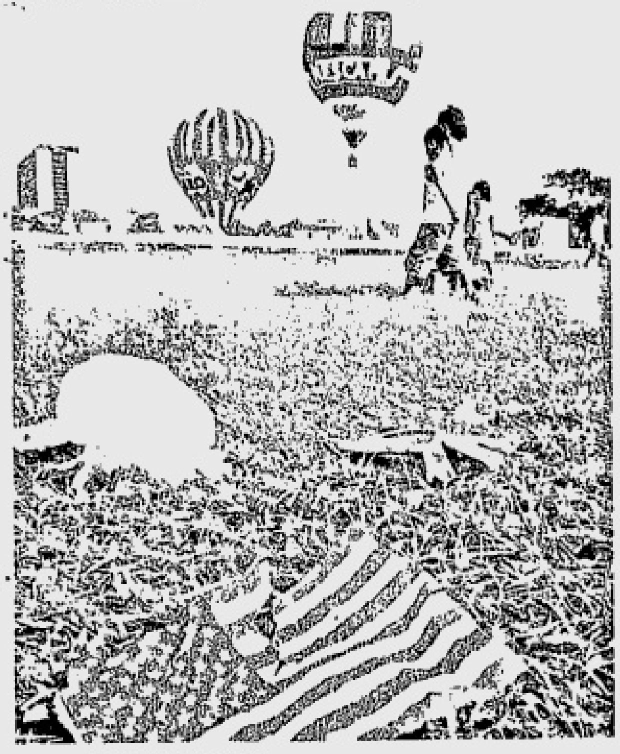

A DAY IN LUNETA
Children walk past a discarded American flag lying in a Manila park. In the background, a hot-air balloon takes to the sky. ERIK ARAZAS

4 CIDG men sacked for kidnap, extort

By Christian Esguerra

THE FOUR officers of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group who allegedly kidnapped then extorted nearly P6 million in cash and jewelry from a doctor and his companions have been sacked.

Relieved were Senior Insp. Romeo Odrada, 39, SPO1 Florentino Tasara, 43, PO3 Jessie Vinas, 40, and PO1 Cesar Lamboon, 29, all members of the CIDG's Anti-Transnational Crime Division.

Director Eduardo Matillano, CIDG chief, yesterday said that the officers are now undergoing summary dismissal proceedings.

"People like them have no place in the national police," Matillano said in a phone interview.

Odrada and his group allegedly served a fake arrest warrant to Dr. Frank Aragon and his four companions at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last week. The reported warrant was for a 1978 murder case, police said.

The suspects took Aragon and his friends to Camp Crame, then to a nearby apartelle, where the CIDG men allegedly stripped the victims of their jewelry worth about P5 million.

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, Region 4 director, said the suspects later demanded money from the victims, forcing them to withdraw P948,000 from a bank in Nasugbu, Batangas.

METROBRIEFS

Revo stolen

CAR THIEVES on Saturday made off with the Toyota Revo of Joan Gonzales, 31, and Romeo Martin, 45, in Bulacan. The victims were on their way home to Marilao, Bulacan, when three men in an orange Isuzu Hi-Lander cut their path in Bankers Village near Bagumbong, Bulacan at around 9:45 p.m. Police said the suspects pointed their guns at the victims and ordered them out of the vehicle. The Revo (XDE 269) is registered to Gonzales' mother, police said. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Killed on a bench

ROEL Alfredo Sayuman yesterday was stabbed and killed while he was resting on a bench on Claro M. Recto Avenue in Manila. SPO2 Virgo Villareal said that the unidentified suspect sneaked up behind Sayuman, 30, a barber from Sta. Maria, Bulacan, and stabbed him repeatedly in the back. *Tarra Quismundo*

Luring the public

INTENT on luring middle class families to Marikina's main public market, city officials have opened up several streets in the area every Saturday and Sunday to serve as parking areas. Market enforcer Robert Avellana said the parking is free on Shoe Avenue to Villalon Street on the west side, and from Jacamar Street to Marikina Sports Parkside on the north side. The public market in Barangay Sta. Elena is considered one of the cleanest in Metro Manila. *Luige del Puerto*

Up for promotion

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. has recommended the promotion of four police officers for "gallantry beyond the call of duty." The four men to be promoted to the rank of senior superintendent were Marvin Bolabola of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Elmer Jamias of the Western Police District, Edgardo Ladao of the Special Task Group-Luzon Area, and Zollo Lachia Jr., team leader of Case OPLAN Black Eagle Bravo. *Nelson Flores*

Woman found strangled in QC motel

A WOMAN on Saturday was found dead in a Quezon City motel room with a bed sheet tied around her neck.

Police said the woman was with a man when she checked in at the La Miranda Apartelle on 20th Avenue, Cubao at around 11:30 p.m.

Motel employees told police that they saw the man leave the room a few minutes later, allegedly to buy some food.

They never saw the man again.

At 2:28 a.m., Ricky Abejon and security guard Juvy Buala entered the couple's room when no one answered their call. They saw the woman on the floor, naked—the bed sheet around her neck.

Police said the woman, aged 23 to 25, had long hair and stood about five feet. The man, aged 25 to 30, was medium-built. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Proud and grateful

Cops get a day's rest; Velasco thanks militants

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

AS THE 11,044 policemen deployed for US President George Bush's Saturday visit took a rest yesterday, police officials were all smiles that the visit began and ended peacefully and without any security glitch.

And for National Capital Region Police Office Director Reynaldo Velasco, the police's "successful operation" proved wrong those countries that had earlier issued travel advisories against the Philippines.

"We showed the whole world that we can handle the security (of Bush) well," Velasco told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He added Bush himself told police officials that the security plan carried out on Saturday was one of the "best security management plans" he saw.

A few days before the visit on Saturday, a number of countries had issued advisories discouraging travel to the Philippines, citing the risk of terrorism in the region.

Militant groups had also warned of intensified mass actions during the eight-hour visit.

But while mass actions were carried out in various areas in Metro Manila as well as in other key cities in the country, the protests remained "generally peaceful."

"We also have to thank the protesters because they cooperated with the police," Velasco said.

The biggest protest gathering on Saturday was held in Commonwealth, Quezon City, where 3,000 protesters gathered a few meters away from the Batasan complex.

More than 800 policemen, reinforced by companies from the Philippine Air Force, Philippine Army and the Philippine Navy, blocked the protesters in front of a mall.

The rally almost caused a change in security plans on Saturday.

Velasco said the US Security Service initially refused to have the American leader and his convoy pass through Commonwealth Avenue to the Batasan complex for Bush's address before Congress.

"We had a hard time convincing the US Security Service that it was a safe route," Velasco said.

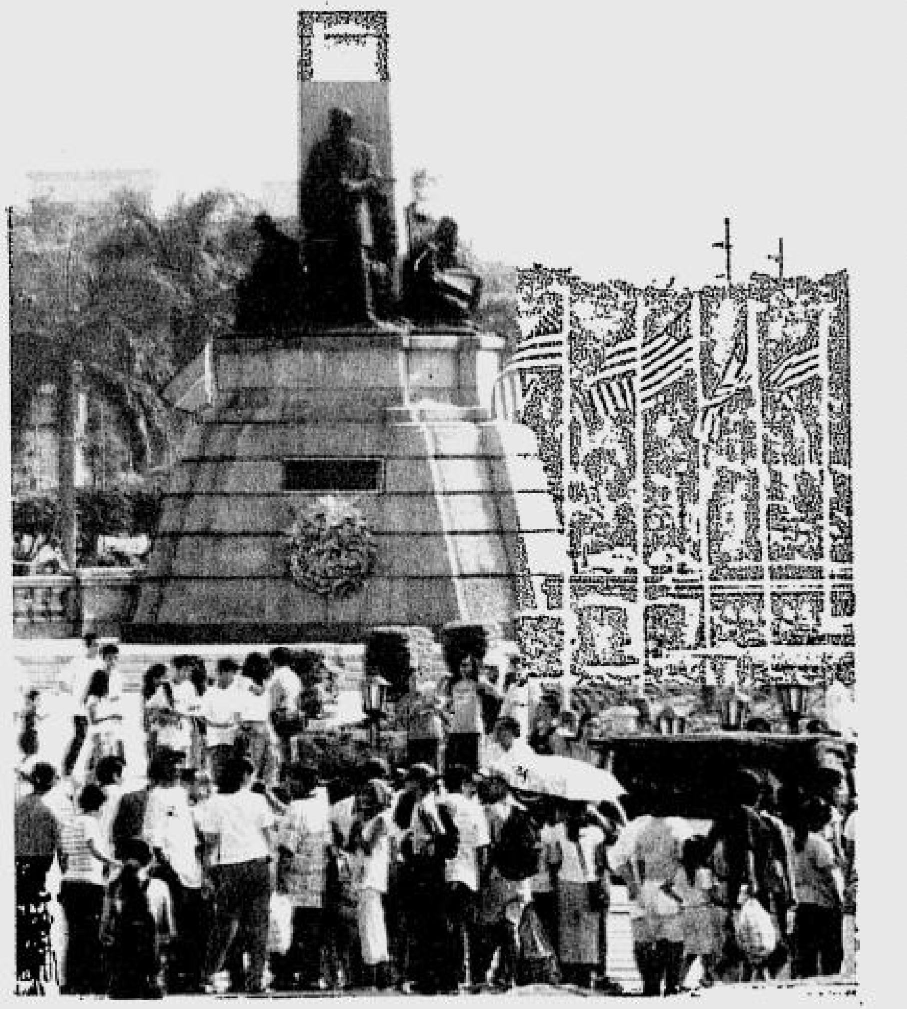
An hour after the original 3:30 p.m. schedule for Bush to arrive at the Batasan complex, the convoy of more than 30 cars took the route from Malacañang to Batasan.

It took them 18 minutes to get to their destination.

The policemen who were deployed the other day were also treated to a one-day rest yesterday as police officials congratulated them for "a job well done."

The police districts in Metro Manila yesterday were ordered to stand down.

From code red, the alert status of the police districts has gone down to "heightened alert" according to Pedro Bulaong, Western Police District chief.



PEOPLE get to stroll in Rizal Park a day after it was declared off-limits to give way to a visiting head of state, who dropped by for a few minutes to pay his respects.
ERIK ARAZAS

Day after Bush, closed streets open up while people retake Luneta

By Tarra Quismundo

MANILA residents yesterday woke up to a typical Sunday—having gone through an unusual Saturday when US President George W. Bush stopped by for an eight-hour visit.

On Oct. 18, the city's streets were crawling with policemen, while the skies resonated with the sound of helicopters that kept watch from above. People lined up the avenues, waving mini versions of the Stars and Stripes.

With the wreath laid by Bush at the Rizal Monument in Rizal Park still looking fresh yesterday, families, couples, youngsters and the elderly picnicked, strolled, played and rested on the park grounds.

Also back were the photographers, who were kept from entering the park, along with the rest of the public, on Saturday from early morning until 5 p.m.

The adjacent TM Kalaw Avenue, where several militant groups staged their protests in the past weeks, having been barred from marching closer to the US Embassy, was likewise back to being a full-fledged road yesterday.

Only the concrete blocks that were used to barricade a portion of the avenue Saturday were left on the avenue's center island.

The militants themselves also seemed to have taken a rest, following last Saturday's culmination of a series of protest actions.

As for the police, it's back to the usual police work.

Western Police District Chief Pedro Bulaong said that the police are back to "normal operations," following the deployment of the district's 3,000 police officers last Saturday—an "extra duty" for the men.

Policemen were on standby for possible protest actions on Mendiola, España and the US Embassy the other day.

But, Bulaong said, no demonstration happened within Manila's city limits.

"There was no untoward incident, and the presidential convoy (of Bush) had an unhampered and smooth travel," Bulaong said in an interview.

He added that Bush's brief visit in the country was "very successful," in terms of security.

From here on, the police have trained their eyes back to the streets.

"We will be undertaking the usual anti-crime operations in the city," Bulaong said, adding in jest that criminals do not take holidays.

Palace guard picks on man in a wheelchair

CRESENCIANO Perico, 53, could not remember how many times he and his family passed through the Malacañang checkpoint on JP Laurel Street.

But Perico, who since 1997 has been in a wheelchair after being paralyzed by a stroke, may well remember yesterday, when they passed through the same checkpoint and was allegedly harassed by an officer of the Presidential Security Group.

For 30 years, Perico has lived on Matienze Street, San Miguel, Manila, within the barriers surrounding Malacañang Palace. Usually, he would hear Mass on Sundays with his wife and two other relatives at the Quiapo Church. It is Perico's only chance to leave the house, as he has difficulty moving around in his wheelchair.

From church, Perico, with his wife assisting, would take a short trip on his wheelchair through the JP Laurel checkpoint—the fastest way to get to his home.

But this routine was disrupted yesterday, when a PSG officer, uniformed, armed, and seemingly drunk, allegedly yelled at Perico and his wife as they were passing through the checkpoint around 2 p.m. yesterday.

In an interview, Perico said that the officer, whom he identified only as Recto, pushed him and shoved an accusing finger at him, while reprimanding him for trying to pass through the right side of the checkpoint.

"My blood pressure shot up and I suffered from a stroke because of him," Perico said in a phone interview. "Good thing my wife brought my medicine with her."

He said he could have died had he not taken medication.

He said that he became upset with the show of disrespect from the officer, whom he described to be below 30 years old.

"I answered back and told him that I know where I could pass and where it is prohibited to pass because I've been living here for a long time," Perico said.

Perico and his family were eventually allowed to pass through.

His daughter, Bernadette, said that she reported the incident to Barangay 640 chairperson, Erlito de Manuel, but the chairperson told her that they could not do anything about the incident.

Perico said that many residents have been harassed by officials of the PSG, but did not report the incident out of fear for their lives.

Tarra Quismundo

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Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASEBALL: World Series 2003 Game 2; 7:30 a.m. (r-1:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN—New York and Florida continue their duel in the Bronx.

BASKETBALL: Pistons vs Celtics, Game 7 1987 Eastern Finals; 8 a.m. (r-7 p.m.); Solar Sports—After Detroit threw away Game 5, its goes on to recover and win Game 6.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Ellis stars as Ginebra ousts Shell

ROSELL Ellis came up with an awesome double-double performance of 36 points and 21 rebounds as Barangay Ginebra clobbered Shell, 110-82, yesterday in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena

The win completed the quarterfinal cast in Group B as Ginebra pulled away beyond recall as fourth placer at 6-5, with Shell missing the last slot with a 3-8 record.

Eric Menk rejoined the Gin Kings after missing several games due to an ankle injury, but there was no doubting who was the main man for Ginebra, whose qualifying bid appeared in jeopardy until Ellis arrived.

Games Wednesday
(Philsports Arena)
5 p.m.—FedEx vs. Purefoods
7:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs. Coca-Cola

Firing 26 points in three quarters, Ellis boosted the Gin Kings to a 74-52 lead that proved too much for the Turbochargers.

The Gin Kings did not finish the game unscathed, though. Jun Limpot may not be around if medical findings discover a torn tissue on his right shoulder. He left the game early in the second period in pain.

The victory also gave idle Talk 'N Text a free ride into the next round. The Phone Pals, who will play the Gin Kings next, have an unreachable 6-4 record.

Rob Duat completed a three-point play with barely 8.7 seconds left to lift the Alaska Aces to a pulsating 92-91 overtime win over the Sta. Lucia Realtors in the second game.

In the one-on-one contest for 6-foot-4 players and above, Asi Taulava defeated Davonn Harp of Red Bull, 12-9.

Scores:

GINEBRA 110— Ellis 36, Salvacion 18, David 10, Menk 10, Ballesteros 10, Adducul 9, Dimaunahan 6, Caguioa 5, Limpot 4, Tolomia 2, Johnson 0, Calpito 0, Crisano 0.

SHELL 82—Calaguio 20, Dela Cruz 15, Kendrick 13, Bajar 11, Tubid 5, Laure 4, Marzan 4, Bacani 4, Jackson 4, Singson 2, Sta. Maria 0, Canlas 0.

Quarters: 22-14; 46-36; 74-52; 110-82.

Second Game

ALASKA 92—Fontaine 40, Arigo 19, Cortez 9, Allado 8, Felhi 8, Duat 6, Noble 4, Tejada 0, Camaso 0.

STA.0 LUCIA 91—Aquino 24, Owens 22, Duremdes 19, Victolero 10, Francisco 7, Espino 5, Mendoza 4, Webb 0, Adriano 0, Ong 0.

Quarters: 18-22, 39-44, 61-65, 92-91.

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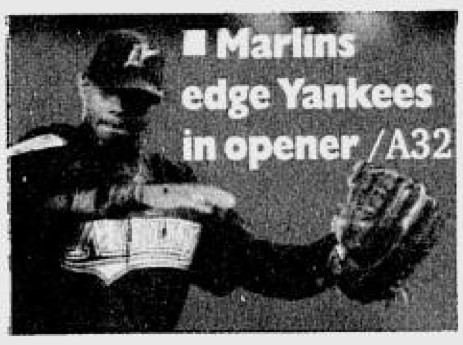
- Ferrero gains final /A31



- Marlins edge Yankees in opener /A32

RP golfers fail mission

JEROME Delariarte and Juvic Pagunsan did their share but their lady partners blew up at the wrong time as the Philippines crashed to a share of 16th overall yesterday in the second The Spirit International amateur golf championship.

Host United States won the unique event in wire-to-wire fashion at the Whispering Pines Golf Club course in Trinity, Texas.

Jerome, back-to-back winner of the Philippine amateur title, and former SEA Games gold medalist Juvic furiously fought for Philippine pride by gunning down three birdies each in a best-ball round of four-under-par 68 that put them seventh best among the 24 entries in the men's division.

That finish—the best posted so far by the Filipinos counting the results of the inaugural 2001 edition—could have easily given the Philippines its best overall showing in the young event touted to become the Olympics of Golf since it features the top 20 teams in the world amateurs plus four invitees.

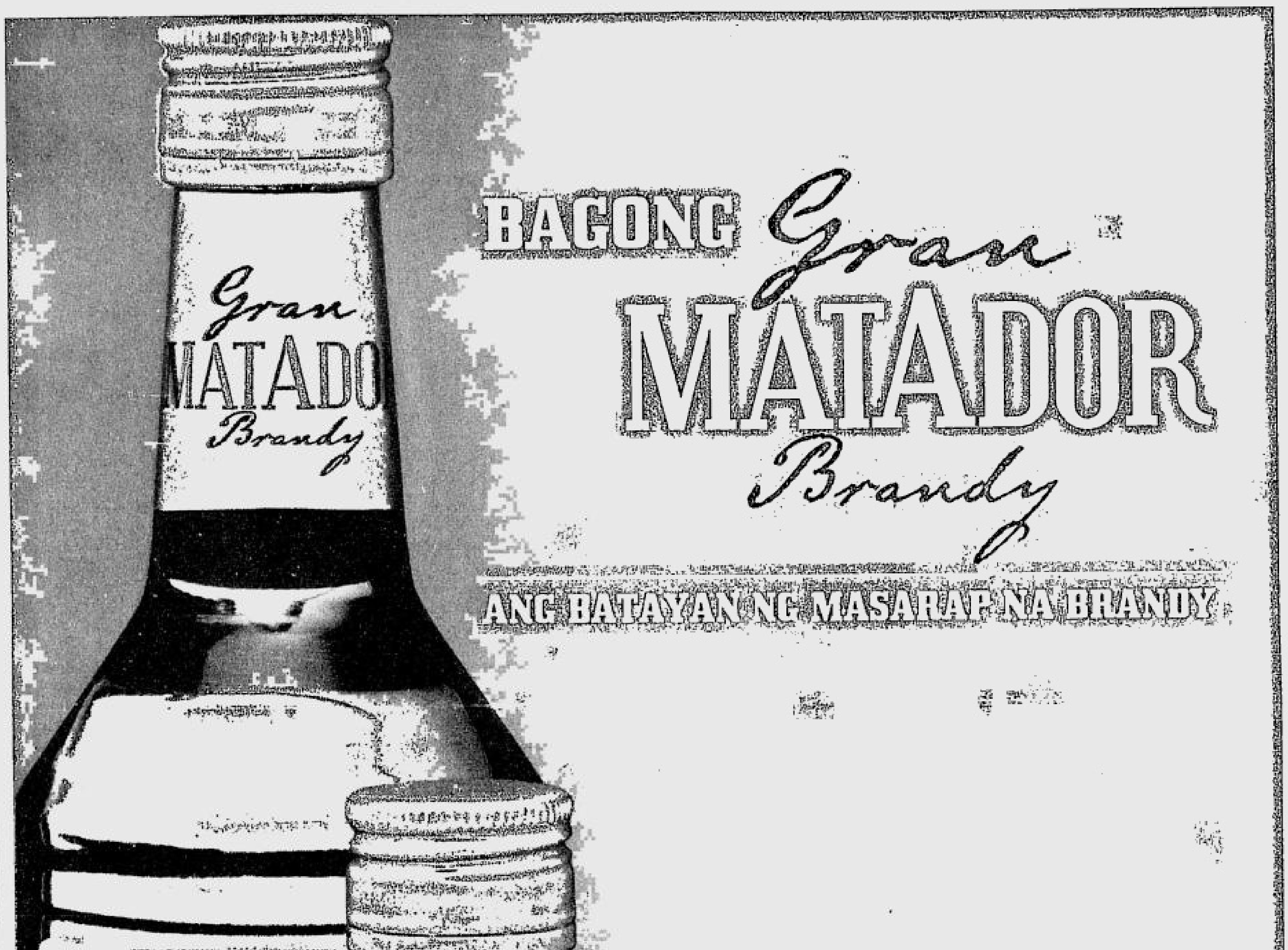
Carmelette Villaroman and Lora Roberto, however, failed to back them up when it mattered most.

Villaroman and Roberto could only submit a five-over 77, going birdie-less throughout after an early disaster on the second hole where they both made a double-bogey.

The RP ladies finished tied for 18th with Mexico at 293.

Already 11th at the start of the day, the Filipinos went down to 16th with their 145 for the day and posted a 562 aggregate like Sweden. In 2001, RP wound up 15th overall after placing 13th in the men's division and 16th in the ladies category.

US swept to a 16-stroke victory over Australia by ruling both divisions, beating New Zealand by two strokes for the men's plum (263-265) and overwhelming the opposition in the ladies side where runner-up Australia finished eight strokes behind. *Jong Arcano*



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FORMER PBA player Chito Loyzaga (center) and his father, Caloy, lead the lighting of the 3rd Mindanao Friendship Games flame. RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

MINDANAO GAMES

Davao City grabs early lead

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MATI, Davao Oriental—Defending champion Davao City took the head start with three gold medals in events decided before the opening of the 3rd Mindanao Friendship Games yesterday.

Ranil Glimada ruled the men's individual golf event and sparked Davao to the team crown while Hilario Ladra dominated the 165-km cycling road race.

Glimada scored a two-day, 36-hole 147 total, beating fellow Davao City parbusters Jomil Ababa and Elmer Saban at the Apo Golf and Country Club in Davao City.

The three combined for 442 in ruling the team event over Bukidnon and Davao Oriental.

STANDINGS

MEDALS	G	S	B
Davao City	3	3	3
Bukidnon	2	1	1
Gen. Santos	1	1	0
Panabo City	1	1	0
Misamis Or.	0	1	0
So. Cotabato	0	0	1
Davao Or.	0	0	1

Bukidnon's Lovelyn Guioguio won the women's individual golf with 159, besting Davao City's Cecille Co and teammate Eva Minoza.

The Bukidnon ladies also snatched the team event with a 330 total, with Davao City settling for the silver with 362.

Gen. Santos City scored on the dance floor with Manuel Alovera and Stephanie Palacios wowing them all in the standard discipline of the dancesports held at SM City in Davao City.

Vincent Chavez and Fe Flores captured the Latin-American discipline title for Panabo City's first gold.

Sen. Loren Legarda, the guest of honor during the opening rites, exhorted the athletes and officials who braved a gruelling four-hour bus ride through harrowing mountainside zigzag roads to get here.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, host Mati Mayor Francisco Rabat and other officials watched the parade of athletes from 41 cities and municipalities on the dusty track of an old, wooden stadium.

There were armored personnel carriers and troops scattered around Mati town to ensure peace and order for the five-day meet, which has thrown this town into a frenzy with its roads suddenly jammed with services buses and trucks of athletes and officials.

Meanwhile, hitches marred the first day of tennis action after the competition was postponed indefinitely due to a disagreement between the technical staff headed by Philippine Tennis Association regional director Juanito "Titong" Cansino and the PSC.

Cansino said his staff of umpires won't start the competitions until the PSC has talked with them.

Apparently, the PSC has brought its own set of match officials here, who turned out to be unqualified, according to Cansino.

Meanwhile, Davao City is expected to flex its muscles in most sports scheduled to begin action today, particularly in judo.

The defending titlists won 13 out of 14 golds at stake in judo during last year's MFG held in Cagayan de Oro City. *With a report from Lito de los Reyes*

Santos snares crown

TOP seed Anna Patricia Santos outclassed fourth seed Czarina Mae Arevalo, 6-2, 6-1, yesterday to pocket the women's singles title in the Luis Hilado Memorial Cup Tennis Championships at the Negros Occidental Tennis Association courts Bacolod City.

It was the second title this year for the Fed Cup veteran Santos, who ruled the Philta Open last March.

Santos and Arevalo bagged the doubles title after posting a 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 upset win over top seeds Alyssa Anne Labay and Bien Zoleta.

The men's doubles title went to the top seeds Johnny Arcilla and Michael Mora III, who beat second seeds Alexander Lazaro and Rolando Ruel Jr., 7-6, 6-4.

In men's singles, top-seed Arcilla and No.2 Joseph Victorino pulled off similar hard-earned wins to advance to the championship round.

Arcilla, eyeing his ninth straight title this year, outlasted Ruel, 6-4, 2-6, 6-1, while Victorino foiled third seed Adelo Abadia, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Cotabato Braves humble SMB Stars

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The all-amateur Cotabato Braves used a "run-and-gun" game to beat the visiting San Miguel Beer All Stars, 79-68, in an exhibition match before a crowd of 8,000 at the provincial capitol court here.

The Braves, a team maintained by North Cotabato provincial administrator Efren Piñol, thrilled the crowd by resorting to fastbreaks and leaving the team made up of former PBA stars out of breath.

The game, part of the Kaburunan Festival in Kidapawan City, was the hardest for the SMB crew who lost their first outing in half a dozen outings in the South.

"You have former stars like Pido Jarencio, Ric-Ric Marata, Noynoy Falcasantos, Jolly Escobar and Terry Saldaña playing against emerging amateurs in rural areas. You have to apply a new strategy, otherwise they will eat you up at low post," said Piñol.

The Braves, whose average height is six feet, compared to the All Stars' 6-4, trailed the visitors early in the third period before regrouping with fastbreaks that broke the visiting team's half-court game. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ammunition shipment for shooters delayed—PSC

MATI, Davao Oriental—There was a request from the Philippine National Shooting Association (PNSA) for ammunition to be used by the national shooters training for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

Philippine Sports Commission spokesperson Arsenic Lacson announced this yesterday to correct an earlier PSC statement that the PNSA made no such request in the wake of a complaint from national shooter Therese Cantada.

But Lacson said the shipment of the ammo ordered from Europe was delayed so the PSC decided to order locally manufactured bullets "so the shooters can prepare for the SEAG with a 45-day supply."

The lack of bullets was cited by Cantada, claiming that the PNSA has been remiss in providing them guns and ammo for their training.

Cantada, a gold medal hopeful, also slammed the PNSA for conducting monthly SEAG tuneup tournaments under the supervision of inept range officers.

But PNSA president Art Macapagal has disputed Cantanda's claim, saying the association has already asked the PSC for the necessary equipment.

Lacson said the local purchase was made through the First Gentleman's Fund.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Why George W. Bush did not go for a KO

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(**BIG LOSS:** The death of boxing Olympian Renato Fortaleza, dedicated and helpful sec-gen of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, is a tragic blow to the organization and RP boxing as a whole. Rene, at the forefront of the Go For Gold program, had given all his time and effort for the country's hunt for its first Olympic gold medal. The Abap may not be able to fill the void created by Fortaleza's untimely demise.)

***

He did not come to wage peace. But, given his predictable hawk's stance, US President George W. Bush could've touched the right vein if he had assured poor Filipinos on the one war we are very anxious about.

President Bush should have thrown a right punch and told both Houses of Congress that Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines would get a fair shake when he fights Marco Antonio Barrera in Texas next month.

Corny. Odd. In the first place, Mr. Bush won't be caught dead pronouncing Fackyew's name in public.

Indeed, this is a strange dish we had hoped to inject into the otherwise flat, albeit well-applauded, chit-chat Bush delivered before our gullible lawmakers.

Still, this is our way of stating that Bush was not truly aware of what's exactly wrong with this forsaken country which President Macapagal-Arroyo, his bosom friend and chief Asian supporter, wants badly to either run or mismanage for another six years.

***

Bush has assured the RP military enough beef.

But Sen. Edgardo Angara was apt in his demand for the US Chief Executive to at least lend both the Philippine police and judiciary a helping hand.

Why? Simple.

More than the chaos and fighting in Mindanao, it's the shameful, sickening lawlessness in the main system, abetted no end by the corruption, dishonesty and incompetence in the police and the judiciary, that continues to fuel disarray in our national life.

If it's a boxing match, it's to each his own out there.

OK. There are countless rules and regulations.

The MMDA gallantly tries to bring order.

But practically everybody has his own idea of how to run things.

For one, there's unending chaos in metropolitan streets.

Jeepney drivers stop, park and go any which way they wish.

Consumers dispose of refuse in a blind, wanton manner.

Meanwhile, commuters walk and cross where only fools in more civilized countries would fear to tread.

***

This is petty, insignificant, if we go by the magnitude of the total degeneration and decay that have eaten voraciously into national life, pride and style.

But then, as that old American comic strip had insisted, "There oughta be a law."

If not, how expect our poor people to wake and save themselves if they blindly wallow in the stinking, sticky mud of primitivism and lawlessness.

You don't need a hard look to conclude that this country is not going anywhere, except maybe to the garbage pit.

If lawmen cannot enforce a thing as clear and simple as the Clean Air Act, blatantly manifested with those criminal, darkly fuming engines that poison us, how expect them to catch outlaws who operate underground?

***

OK, the Bush & GMA Gang could indeed run the Abu Sayyaf to the ground.

But where do we go from here where police love to look the other way, while judges shamefully misjudge cases conveniently, often in favor of drug lords and offenders?

There's supposed to be a department of local government, but this has also become insignificant as its own officials and initials.

The situation is so bad that even the dressy NBI chief, Reynaldo Wycoco, had to call in Manny Pacquiao in order to send the message that breaking the law leads you nowhere.

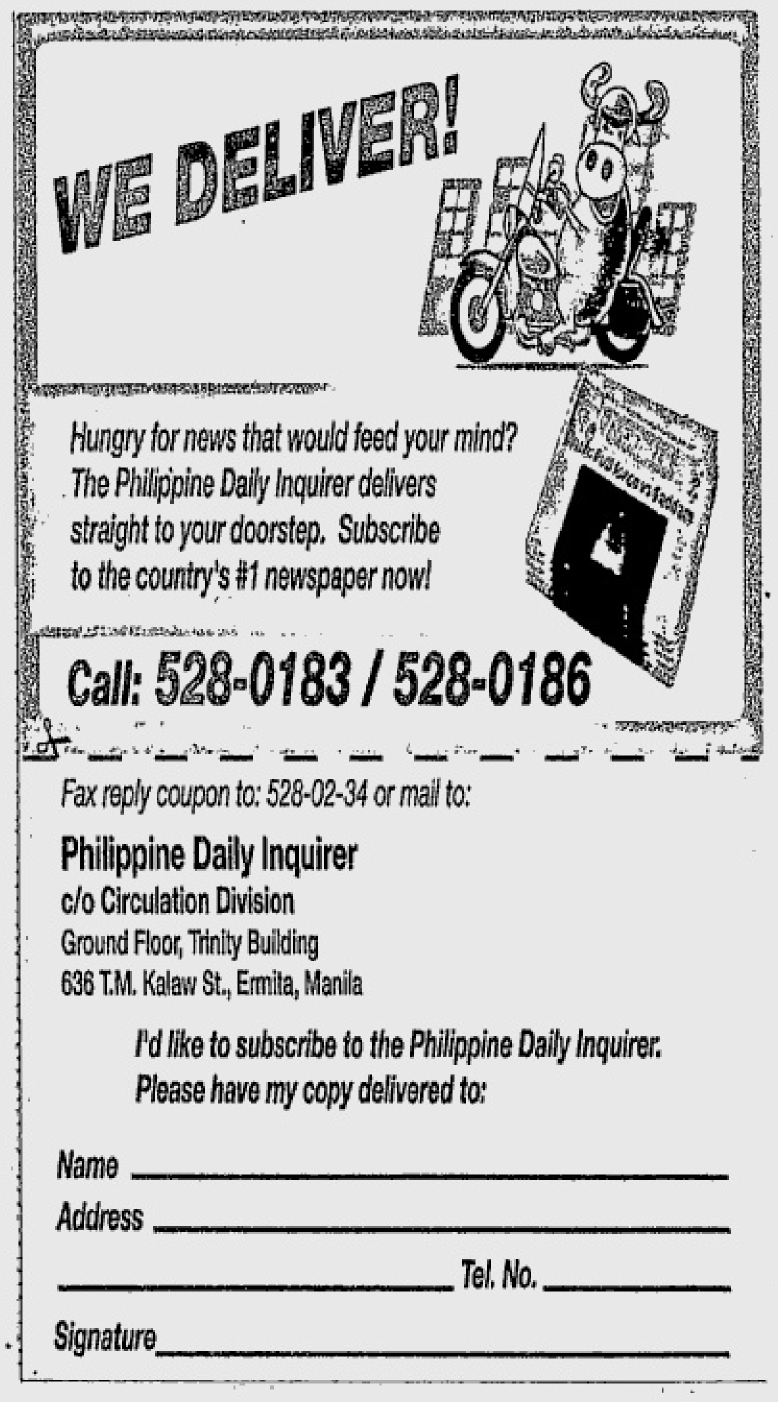
Again. George Bush has assured that the Abu Sayyaf will soon stop hitting below the belt.

That promises to be an empty victory, though.

Why? Because in this mangled, mismanaged country, cheating and corruption are all in the game; while the essence of democracy has become synonymous to mayhem.

You think the president of the world's only remaining democratic superpower is mighty enough to knock out these lifelong enemies?

Our very delighted, cute President might have the answer.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Alabang golf all set for Opal, senior tournaments

THE ALABANG Country Club is all set to stage the Alabang Ladies Chapter's Opal Cup and the Alabang Senior Golfers Association (Asga) Cup in the next three weeks.

The 11th edition of the Opal Cup, the annual fund-raiser of the Alabang Ladies Chapter headed by Melanie Villar, is slated on Oct. 24.

The 18-hole event calls for three men and a woman to play, with the best two scores plus the worst counting for the team aggregate.

Proceeds will go to the annual projects of the ALC, including the program for club caddies.

The seniors will hold their own bash on Nov. 7 with the Asga Cup, which has a member-guest format. Under the supervision of Joe Ong, Eddie Jacinto and tournament director Ed Espinosa, the event has generated an enthusiastic response from the seniors community.

Team Mila steals thunder from new marathon champs

WOWEL and wife Mila Mercado crossing the Milo Marathon finish line. ERIK ARAZAS

By Dennis U. Eroa

NAVYMAN Crisanto Canillo and University of Santo Tomas standout Liza Yambao dominated the field yesterday, but the sun-drenched Sunday crowd couldn't be blamed for reserving their loudest cheers for a couple who personified faith and courage in the 27th National Milo Marathon at the Quirino Grandstand.

Oozing with confidence, Canillo exploited the absence of the top guns headed by defending champion Eduardo Buenavista and two-time titleholder Allan Ballester to rule the men's marathon with a leisurely time of 2 hours, 31 minutes and 7 seconds.

Yambao, 22, a commerce junior, ran unchallenged after wresting the lead at the halfway mark of the country's most popular and biggest 42-K event.

The Sta. Rosa Laguna lass timed 3 hours, 6:06 in winning her first Milo Marathon. Like Canillo, a two-time winner of the Pasig River Heritage Marathon, the ponytailed Yambao, who also likes to play basketball, won P75,000.

But stealing the thunder from the winners of this much-awaited event featuring the best runners from 13 regions and offering a record total of P2.7 million in prizes was Team Mila featuring the husband and wife tandem of Wawel and Mila Mercado.

Wawel, sweaty but fulfilled, earned thunderous applause, as he breasted the tape pushing the wheelchair of Mila, who became a quadriplegic seven years ago after giving birth to a healthy daughter.

"Mila's happy. I can see it in her face," said Wawel, who competed in the 10K.

He explained that Team Mila was established on June 13 to encourage society to make room for people with handicaps by giving them access to all that is available to normal people.

"We also want to encourage families who care for members who are handicapped to include them in all the things that normal people enjoy," Wawel said.

A native of Iligan City, Canillo admitted that the absence of Buenavista, who like Ballester is in deep training for the coming Vietnam SEA Games this December, made his job easier.

Canillo took the lead at the Libertad corner, barely 10 kilometers from the start and was unbothered by the field till the end.

Noel Bautista salvaged second place in 2:33:22, followed by Reynaldo delos Reyes in 2:34.45 in this race also presented by Bayview Park Hotel, adidas, Cebu Pacific, the Department of Tourism, MyGlobe and PowerBar.

Estela Diaz and Christy Sevilleno finished second and third, respectively, in the distaff side with clockings of 3:10:58 and 3:11:22, respectively.

Jao wraps up Super Bikes plum (again)

ROSARIO, Batangas—On a bad weekend by his standards, defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance rewrote history by clinching his seventh road race crown recently in the Shell Advance Super Bikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Mechanical problems bogged him down in both rounds 11 and 12 of the series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phils., Kilton Motors, MOF Company, Norkis Yamaha and Pagcor Sports.

Jao finished fifth in the morning race after veering onto the gravel while trying to avoid a spill. Then mechanical problems forced him out of the race in the afternoon.

But Jao actually didn't need to ride on the last day as he had already amassed enough points to bag the coveted crown.

"What's important is we got the title, and winning it for the seventh time is a terrific feat. I couldn't have done it without the support of Shell Advance, my other sponsors and my family, friends and fans," he said.

The day belonged to Speedeffex ace Benjo Mendoza who swept both races in the expert division of this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

Medoza clocked 16:17.594 to rule the morning race over runner-up Randy Ortiz.

Lone female entry and pole-sitter Wacky del Rosario of Petron Blaze claimed third place with a time of 16:37.316, with Jeff Andres of J.A. Rapid Bikes fourth.

In the afternoon race, Mendoza used a fast laptime of 1:42.259 in the fifth to pull ahead.

Sharing the limelight with Mendoza were Rolf Wiltschek, Philip Alvendia of A3 Motorsports and Aries Padiernos who also swept the races in their respective divisions.

NBL Panasonic Cup gets going Oct. 24

THE NATIONAL Basketball League got a big boost recently when Panasonic Phils. agreed to be the title sponsor of the Panasonic Cup 2003 2nd Regional Championship starting on Oct. 24 at the Florante Aquino Stadium in San Pablo City.

Panasonic Phils. president Rodolfo G. Perez sees NBL as the proper vehicle to promote their slogan "Ideas For Life" aimed at bringing fast-changing technology to the provinces.

"We saw the huge NBL crowds this season. We want to take advantage of NBL's popularity in the provinces, especially in Visayas and Mindanao, as we shift our sales campaign from the NCR to the countryside," said Perez after signing a contract with NBL secretary general Tito Palma and Panasonic battery department head Jose Francisco V. de Jesus.

So far, eight teams have already confirmed their participation in the tournament also sponsored by BJ Star Logistics, Sulpicio Lines, Molten Basketball and Nature's Spring.

These are reigning NBL national champion M. Lhuillier, runner-up Forward Taguig, Pampanga, MayniLA, Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo, Ilocos Sur Snipers, Negros and Adamson University-Vaporin.

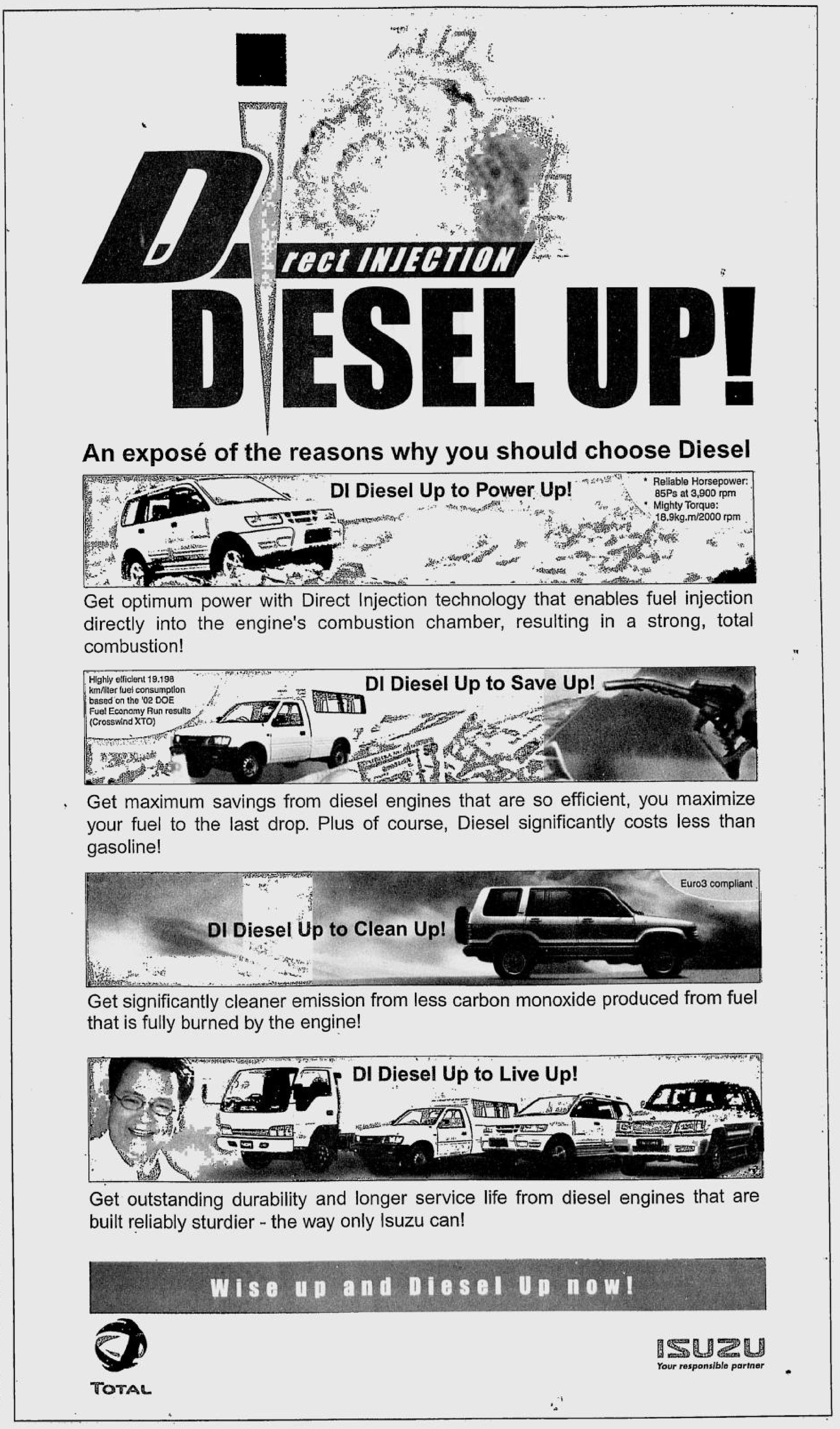
Don Bosco XI routs USLS, gains semis

BACOLOD CITY—Don Bosco Technical Institute blasted University of St. La Salle, 16-2, Friday to gain the semifinals of the Negros Occidental Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football eliminations at the Panaad field here.

Von Joseph Bayquin knocked in four goals while Joel Artagame and Larry Jade Pun-an added three each as the DBTI boys produced the day's most lopsided triumph.

Powerhouse West Negros College and Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos and upstart Ramon Torres National High also breezed through their respective quarterfinal assignments.

WNC blanked Catalino Soliguen Memorial National High, 9-0; CST-R blasted Don Vicente F. Gustillo Memorial NHS, 8-1; and RTNHS ripped La Consolacion Gardenville, 5-0.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Del Rosario: Coach and father figure to his wards

By Musong Castillo, Contributor

(Noted sportswriter and PR man Musong Castillo starts his regular contribution with a piece on Aric del Rosario, coach of the national basketball team and long-time strategist of the University of Sto. Tomas Growling Tigers.—Ed)

DEL ROSARIO

IT WAS supposed to be a routine interview, not poignant and emotional as this one.

After 15 years in the sport and a combined nine titles both as a player and coach, Aric del Rosario has said goodbye to the black and gold stripes of the Tigers as officials of Santo Tomas recently accepted the retirement of one of the most colorful basketball personalities UST has ever produced.

As he recalled the emotional, child-like moments of his winning four straight University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) championships for Santo Tomas in the 1990s, Del Rosario literally cried his heart out while talking about the job he has just given up.

Del Rosario joyfully recounted, at first, the victories in a career he started as a player in 1963 in the huge compound along España. He recalled the agonies of a player and a coach but failed to control his emotions when the topic shifted to his retirement as UST mentor.

"This is the most painful thing for me to do," Del Rosario said haltingly in Tagalog. "I consulted my family, did a lot of soul-searching, and told myself that this is it. *Ang naiiwan na lang na tanong sa isip ko ngayon ay kung paano na lang itong mga batang maiiwan ko* (I'm worried of what will happen to my players in the team)."

Del Rosario actually bid his players adieu after a game against University of the Philippines last month. Everyone in the dugout cried, but none more than the coach who has looked after every team he has handled like it's his own family.

"*Kahapon nga, may batang nandito sa bahay, kinuha ko yun galing sa* Zamboanga (Yesterday, I recruited a boy from Zamboanga)," Del Rosario said. "*Wala na raw siyang rubber shoes, tinulungan ko naman kahit hindi alam nung bata na wala na ako sa UST. 'Yun ang gusto ko talagang gawin* (He said he had no rubber shoes so I helped him even if I'm no longer with UST because that is what I like to do).

The 60-year-old native of Candaba, Pampanga said he is proud to have helped a lot of young boys and made them happy. "I leave UST without any regret," he added.

He did make countless of alumni happy for sure, most especially after winning his first varsity title in 1993. It was a 14-game sweep of the elimination round that meant the title outright for the Growling Tigers, an accomplishment that has been untouched for more than a decade now.

Del Rosario talked with Fr. Ermito de Sagun two Fridays ago, and the school's athletic director accepted his retirement, promising to give the multititled coach a tribute for his contributions to the university.

Helping people and winning championships will be the legacies that this former administration assistant at Meralco's engineering department will leave behind once his contract officially expires at the end of the year.

Proof of Del Rosario's worth as coach is the growing number of former Tigers in the Philippine Basketball Association these days. From Bong Hawkins and Rabbi Tomacruz whom he coached in the junior ranks, down to the likes of Dennis Espino, Rey Evangelista, Chris Cantonjos, Richard Yee, Edmund Reyes, Bal David and Gerard Francisco, among others.

As a then-Glowing Goldie 40 years ago under the late great Fely Fajardo, Del Rosario won his first championship as a player while picking up the UAAP's Rookie of the Year award along the way.

Another title came the season after under the legendary Herr Silva and Caloy Loyzaga. His final two years on the roster also saw him play in the Finals—both against University of the East and a charismatic all-around player named Robert Jaworski.

Among his teammates in that 1963 team were the late George Lizares and Sonny Reyes, Ceferino dela Paz, and Romy Ramos. Lizares went on to play for Mariwasa and Utex in the PBA, like another teammate, Roberto Salonga.

Hector Hipolito, who coached Adamson when Santo Tomas completed the sweep, was also in that title-winning roster along with Ramon Belmonte, dad of Rudolph "Udoy" Manny Tan and the great Orlando Bauzon, who later on went to play for Toyota and coach in the PBA.

The spunky guard then played for Philippine Airlines for two years and another two seasons for Meralco in the defunct Micaa before injuring his left knee and being forced into retirement. He spent a total of 25 years as a Meralco employee.

Danny Florencio joined the team in the last two seasons of Aric's tenure at Santo Tomas but failed to win a championship for the Goldies.

Aric won his first title as a coach of UST's high school squad in 1982, when a team built around Hawkins and Tomacruz defeated Ateneo. The team finished second the next season when Hawkins literally had to drag his leg because of a hamstring injury during the title series.

Then the call to coach in an even bigger arena came after Charlie Badion resigned at the end of the 1984 season. A team made up of Pido Jarencio and Benet Palad made it to the Finals against UE, and like in his last experience against the Warriors, Del Rosario and the Goldies lost in three games.

It was the start of a painstaking journey to the top. He had to give up his job momentarily after he was blamed for allegedly falsifying a record of a player. He returned late in the 1980s and then authored that monstrous sweep of 1993 that was capped by a victory over Kenneth Duremdes and Adamson before a sea of gold at the Araneta Coliseum.

Three more titles followed in succession after that sweep that prompted the UAAP to come up with a Final Four format to avoid a similar romp.

He won two Intercollegiate titles late in the last decade before roller-coaster campaigns in the last four editions of the UAAP came and nasty rumors and allegations surfaced in the confines of Santo Tomas because of the tumbles the Tigers were taking.

He repeatedly says that he has no gripes leaving UST, in fact thanking his former team managers and school officials who stuck with him through the years.

And after calling the shots for the Tigers one final time in December in the Champions League, Del Rosario says he might even consider coaching other non-UAAP schools in the future if his schedule as a Talk 'N Text assistant and National coach permits.

He has but one wish for the team that he left and an appeal to his replacement.

"*Sana 'yung makuha nilang coach tingnan 'yung mga player na parang mga anak din niya* (I hope the new coach would treat his players like his own family.)"

UAAP exten mastery eve in All Stars

By Dennis U. Eroa

LA SALLE'S Joseph Yeo electrified while UE'S James Yap and Rey Mendoza of NU did not disappoint as UAAP South humbled NCAA East, 94-77, yesterday in the Bantay Bata Showdown 163 All Stars at the Araneta Coliseum.

The game was close only in the first quarter with the UAAP South stars taking just a four-point lead, 24-20, before dominating their NCAA counterparts with superior firepower in the next three quarters.

Yeo's fourth triple from a Yap assist powered UAAP South to a 92-73 bulge as the Archer, known for his high-flying act, preserved the shining games of his teammates.

Yeo, who won MVP honors, finished with 21 points and four rebounds, while Yap had 15 points, 7 rebounds and 6 assists. UE playmaker Paul Artadi and Rey Mendoza had 13 points apiece, with the 6-foot-4 Bulldogs slotman grabbing six boards like La Salle's Jerwin Gaco, who also finished with 11 points.

In the second game, the North Selection made it a double for UAAP with a hard-earned 62-57 triumph over the NCAA West.

UAAP board member Lito Tanjuatco of La Salle and Dulce Festin Baybay, public relations department head of ABS-CBN Foundation, and Peter Musngi, vice president for sports, awarded the trophies to the winners.

Ron Capati of St. Benilde l
with 21 points, while Jose Rizal'
and Wyn Te chipped in 19 poin
In the side events, UE's Nin
the slam dunk competition w
lowed by Ateneo's JC Intal, wh
Letran's Andro Quinday took 3r
Jose Rizal University point
supreme in the three-point
points, beating Ronnie Cajayon
sity in the faceoff. Cajayon shot
The tandem of Louie Abad a
of the College of St. Benilde wo
the Jay Sierra-Don Yabut of Far

Scores:

First Game

UAAP South 94—Yeo 21, Yap 15,
Gaco 11, Omiping 5, Booker 5, Tang 5. I
bang 1, Butel 1.

NNCAA East 77—Capati 21, Santos
Roque 6, Misa 2, Retaga 2, Cuenco 2.
Borboran 0, Fajardo 0.

Quarters: 24-20, 48-39, 70-53, 94-77

Second Game

UAAP North 62 – Isip 13, Cruz 10. Jo
4, Espiritu 4, Alvarez 3, Gonzales 3, Cati
Cervantes 0.

NCAA West 57 – Najorda 15, Aban 1
era 6, Dula 6, Cordero 5, Anabo 1; Fedeli
Cruz 0.

Quarters: 17-12, 28-31, 47-43, 62-57

Nic Jorge seeking PC

NIC Jorge, leader of the court-recognized Basketball Association of the Philippines Inc. (BAPI), yesterday appealed to the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) to uphold the rule of law and recognize the BAPI as the only legal national association for the sport.

The Court of Appeals recently declared the BAPI as the legal NSA for bask
the existence of the Bas
Philippines, which the CA
as the BAPI, which is inc
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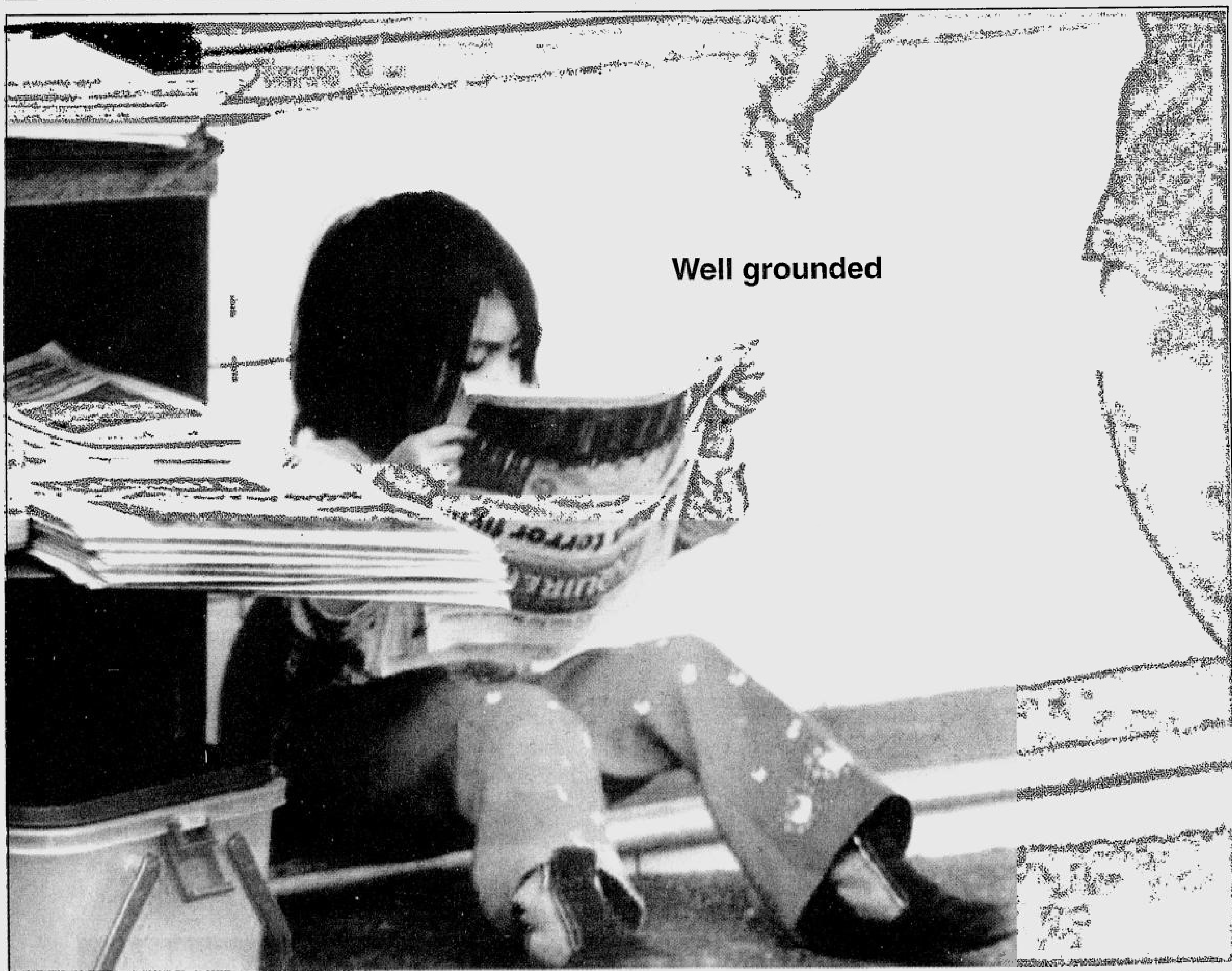
government ruling on all t
In recognizing Jorge's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For the past 9 years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has topped the Asia Research Organization Readership Survey as the No.1 broadsheet in the country. This year, we've done it again, thanks to the faith of our readers, advertisers, dealers, and partners who remain confident in our commitment to public service. We're glad that whatever your reading style, you have made us a part of your life.

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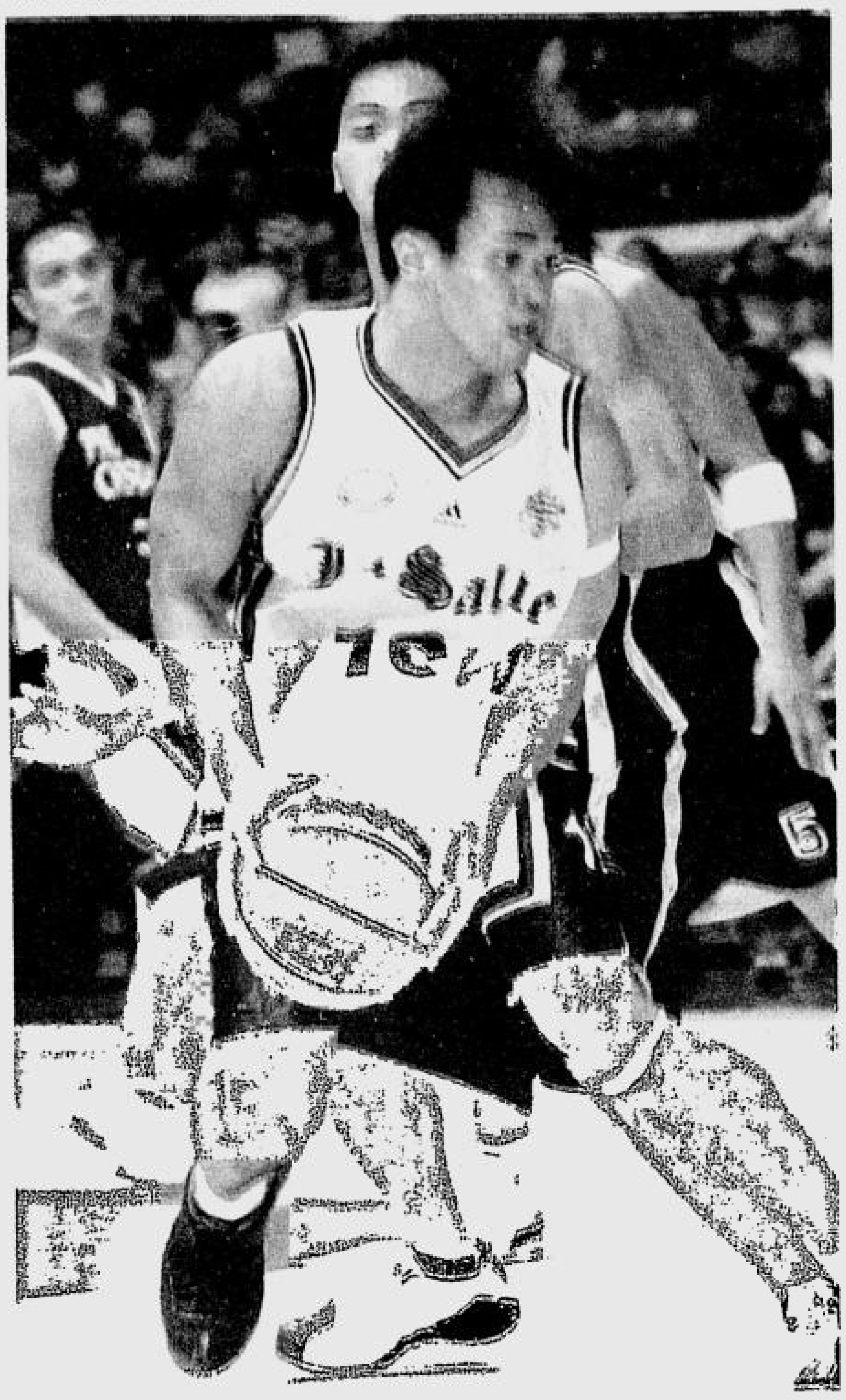
d the NCAA East McDonald Santos apiece.
Canaleta topped th 49 points, fol- finished with 46. with 42.
guard Te reigned hootout with 22 of National Univer- 4.
nd Titus Mendoza n the 2-3 ball over Eastern University.

Mendoza 13, Artadi 13, strada 2, Bono 2, Mas-

19, Te 19, Magpayo 6, Lindaya 0, Mendoza 0,

es 10, Santos 9, Almeda Miranda 2, Fonacier 2,

Enrile 8, Reyes 7, Pin- 0, Bautista 0, Aldave 0,



JERWIN Gaco of La Salle maneuvers inside the shaded lane. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

No rematch: Gorres is now a superfly

NO MORE Gorres-Rodrigo rematch.

Tired of getting flyweight champion Edgar Rodrigo to fight him again, Z "The Dream" Gorres yesterday announced his decision to campaign in the heavier super flyweight category.

Gorres said moving up to the 115-lb division had the blessing of his manager, lawyer Rudy Salud, who was similarly disenchanted by the seeming reluctance of Rodrigo to stake the title he wrested from Gorres last June 1.

The decision was timely for Gorres as Rodrigo, now handled by Lope Sarreal Jr. signed Friday a contract to defend his 112-lb crown against Glenn Donaire on Dec. 13 in Subic, Zambales.

The 5-foot-5, 23-year-old Donaire is the reigning World Boxing Organization Asia-Pacific junior flyweight titlist.

Gorres, whose handlers had heavily lobbied for a rematch with Rodrigo (9-2-3, 4 KO's), has racked up two consecutive knockout victories.

Things got worse after Sarreal scheduled a Nov. 21 bout for his new ward against a Thai in a non-title fight.

Gorres' move fulfills in part Salud's dream to settle a score with WBC champ Masamori Tokuyama.

It was Tokuyama who inflicted two heart-breaking losses on Gerry Peñalosa, Salud's former prized ward, and the latter wants Gorres to fulfill that dream. *Salven Lagumbay, Rey Danseco, Contributors*

Bitoon a win away from chess crown

TACLOBAN, LEYTE—International Master Richard Bitoon stopped overnight co-leader NM Darwin Laylo after 30 moves of a Reti Opening last Saturday to grab the solo lead after the eighth and penultimate round of the 2003 Leyte Landing Open chess championship at the MacArthur Park and Beach Resort here.

Bitoon, from Medellin, Cebu, had the 12th seed Laylo in the ropes with the threat of a major piece capture when the fight ended.

Bitoon now has six wins and two draws for a frontrunning 7 points in this nine-round Swiss system tournament sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) and bankrolled by Leyte Gov. Remedios L. Petilla and Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas Vic Domingo.

A win in the final round against eighth seed NM Rolando Nolte will give Bitoon the lion's purse of P50,000 from the total pot of P114,000.

Ranola kept his title hopes alive by shocking IM Chito Garma to be at 6.5 points.

He shared second place with Nolte of Baguio City who beat Gonzales in an English Opening.

Third seed IM Barlo Nadera and sixth seed NM Emmanuel Senador agreed to a draw after 70 moves of a Tarrash Defense to be in joint fourth with Laylo, Fide Master Adrian Pacis, FM Fernie Donguines, NM Rolly Martinez, NM Alex Milagrosa, NM Rogelio Enriquez Jr. and NM Levi Mercado. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

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C, PSC recognition

tball; effectively nullifying ketball Association of the ruled is one and the same rporated with the Securi- nission (SEC) following a ecipients of financial help. roup as the legal BAPI, the CA dismissed the case filed by former BAP president Godofredo Jalasco, who sought a restraining order against Jorge's BAPI while taking over its functions as the legal association for the sport since 1995.

The CA's 13th Division threw out Jalasco's case as it upheld the decision of a Manila court declaring Jorge's group as the rightful BAP on Aug. 14, 1995.

Dancefest

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

DANCESPORT Council of the Philip- s will celebrate its seventh year in by hosting the first ever Manila IDSF n Pagoda Philippines Cup at the ports Arena on Nov. 9, featuring npion dance athletes from Asia and nd the world.

nce 1996 the fledgling DSCP has taken mous strides, attesting to its increasing larity and acceptance. In the same it became a member of the Interna- l Dance Sport Federation, the govern- ody for amateur dancesport which is gnized by the International Olympic mittee. Apart from staging several na- l and Asian competitions, DSCP also uced world-class dance athletes like an internationalists Bong Marquez Belinda Adora, last year's Asia Pacific medal winners in the Latin category; youngsters Rener Mercado, then only nd 12-year-old Judith Anne Melencio, r Latin champions; and, most recently, Co and Ednah Ledesma, who shone tly in the 78th Blackpool Dance Festi- nd Competition in England, finishing d in a star-studded field of 73 dance les.

rlier, John and Ednah emerged cham- s in the Blackpool Star championships, ng 47 other couples.

e only dancesport group recognized e Philippine Olympic Committee, its dent and founder is Becky Garcia, pe- pretty and considered by many as the lady of modern dance in the Philip- . She is also the chair of the POC edu- n and culture commission.

he IDSF Open-Pagoda Cup is the est and most colorful dance event year," sadi Ms Garcia during an inter- , adding that the council has invited e 73 member-countries of the inter- nal federation to submit their en- for both the Latin and Standard dis- es in the amateur, youth and junior ts. Thus far, seven countries have rmed their participation, namely, Czech Republic, Russia, Switzerland, a, Macau, Thailand and host Philip- . The world-renowned dancers of l Tropical Carnival from Brazil will be coming to strut their stuff during lue-ribbon affair, she added.

t that's not all.

a fitting prelude to the IDSF Open, the th National Dancesport-Alaxan FR will be held on Nov. 7, with four-time undefeated world professional Latin champions Jukka Haapalainen and Sirpa Suutra of Finland displaying their wares. They will also conduct private lessons and adjudicate during the championships, together with other adjudicators from England, Portugal, Australia, Scotland, Switzerland, Japan, Thailand and Indonesia, among others.

Through the years, the council has been conducting workshops throughout the country, including the provinces, to upgrade the standards of local techniques and choreography.

And despite its limited resources, the group has been acquiring the costly services of world-class foreign coaches and adjudicators such as Russian standard professional dancers Sacha and Olga Zenkevitch and European Latin champions Jason Roditis and Tonia Kosovich of Greece, Marcel de Rijk, chair of the Dance Teachers Committee of World Dance and Dance Sports Council; Ian White and Natalia Panima, Dutch professional Latin champions.

"Right now, we are concentrating on training the youth, the future of dancesport," said Garcia.

***

DEKADA ARANGKADA. Congrats to Energy Food & Drinks on the 10th anniversary of its top-selling Red Bull brand. Owned by the Chua family, the company marked the occasion recently at the New World Renaissance Hotel with a well-attended dinner and awards night honoring its loyal supporters and distributors led by Metro Manila's Ruben "Red" Espiritu. Seen during the glittering affair were coaches Yeng Guiao, Roehl Nadurata and Rudy Hines, team manager Tony Chua and players of the Red Bull Barako, who earlier in the night, nosed out arch rival San Miguel Beer, 73-70, to seal their entry into the quarterfinal round of the PBA Reinforced Conference with an 8-2 record. *Talagang arangkada!*

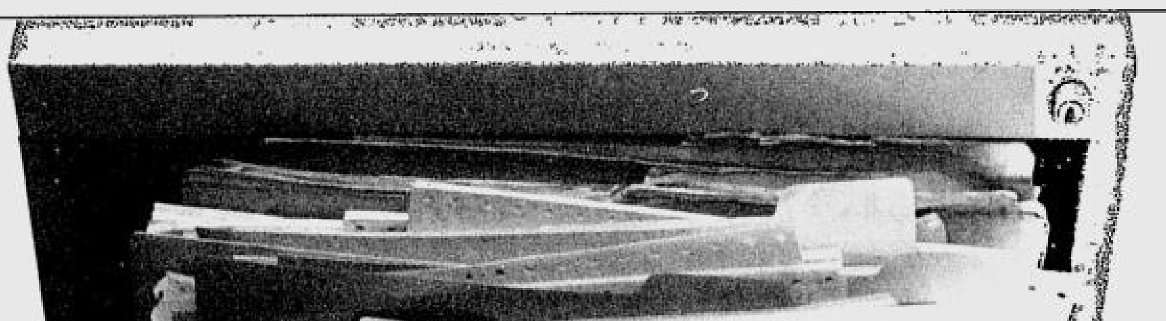
awasaki tops automotive bowlfest

ASAKI Motors Philippines domi- a field of 12 companies in the ling event of the 3rd Automotive tsfest sponsored by DHL at the As- owl in Makati last Friday.

ne Kawasaki team, composed of n Mendoza, Jun Espanol, Danny nio and Lords Puli, topped the four-game eliminations with 2,597 pinfalls and scored 620 in the one-game final round to win the crown.

Last year's champion Toyota toppled Nissan in a tiebreaker match to finish second, while Isuzu wound up fourth.

Gerry Celeste of Toyota beat Julio Daycon of Suzuki in the 9-ball billiards event.



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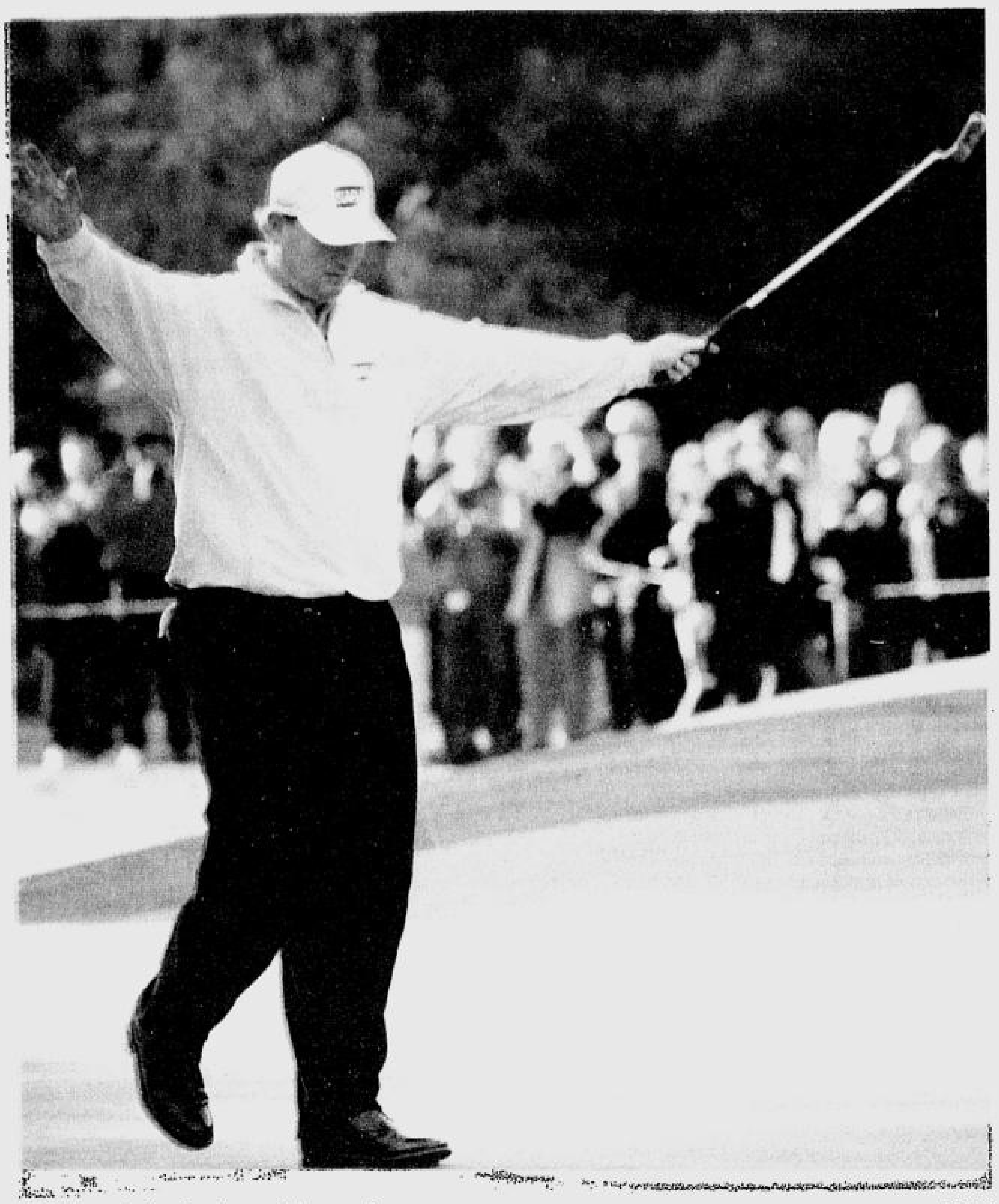

ELS acknowledges the cheers of the crowd. REUTERS

MATCH PLAY

Els faces Bjorn for $1.7-M pot

VIRGINIA WATER, England—The final of the World Match Play Championship feels more like a neighborhood scramble than a tournament worth 1 million pounds (US$1.67 million) to the winner.

Ernie Els and Thomas Bjorn live just a hole away from each other at the exclusive Wentworth club—Bjorn off the 15th and Els on 16.

"It's obviously going to be a strange day for both of us," Bjorn said. "We're good friends and we see each other a lot off the golf course—particularly our wives and our children see each other a lot."

Els, who can match the five titles of Seve Ballesteros and Gary Player with a victory on Sunday, ousted Vijay Singh 5 and 4.

Bjorn got a measure of revenge against British Open champion Ben Curtis, defeating the American 2 up. Bjorn led that major by two shots with three to play but finished a stroke behind Curtis.

Els reeled off eight straight winning holes in the heart of the 36-hole marathon on Saturday to rally after trailing by four after 15. He eclipsed a record of seven straight set 38 years ago by Tony Lema.

Seeded No. 1, Els will be playing this third straight 36-hole day. Bjorn, unseeded, will be playing his fourth.

"The Ryder Cup is the hardest week you can imagine, but this comes close," Bjorn said.

"I know my best golf gets very close to Ernie's best golf. But his consistency is better than mine, and I know that."

Off the course, Els won the European money title on Saturday with two events to play when Darren Clarke—570,000 pounds (US$950,000) behind—pulled out of the last two events. Clarke needed to win both to have any chance of overtaking the South African.

On the course, Els kept "tweaking" his swing until he got it right.

"I found something with my golf swing on the 18th this morning," Els said. "I went with that, and my putter got hot. The last three holes (three straight birdies) this morning changed the whole outcome." *AP*

SINGH: Ousted by Els. AFP

Faxon slices Maruyama lead to just 1 in Chrysler

GREENSBORO, North Carolina—Shigeki Maruyama played just well enough Saturday to retain the lead at the Chrysler Classic of Greensboro.

Maruyama, who held a five-stroke lead entering the third round, saw his advantage shrink to a stroke before rallying with an eagle at No. 13 and finishing with a 2-under-par 70. He sits at 17-under 199, three strokes ahead of Brad Faxon heading into Sunday's final round at Forest Oaks Country Club.

Faxon shot a 68 and moved to 14-under 202.

Maruyama, nicknamed the "Smilin' Assassin," saw Faxon move within a stroke. He then took advantage of an errant tee shot by Faxon at the 13th, rolling in an 11-foot eagle putt and extending his lead to three strokes.

Maruyama saved par at No. 18 by converting a 30-foot putt, but saw his streak of sub-70 rounds stopped at 12.

He was satisfied to maintain his three-shot advantage in tricky winds and dropping temperatures.

"I didn't play as good as the last two days today, but it was really hard with the wind to aim at the pin today," Maruyama said through an interpreter. "I'm still having good putting ... and, hopefully, I will have another good day tomorrow."

Peter Lonard shot a 67 to move into a three-way tie for third place with Matt Gogel (68) and K.J. Choi (68) at 11-under 205. Five players are at 10 under.

Maruyama, winless this season after victories on the PGA Tour in 2001 and 2002, came into the round at 15-under 129. He had a 65 in Thursday's opening round, and had nine birdies Friday to finish with a 64.

He extended his lead to six strokes Saturday with a birdie at No. 2 before Faxon gradually closed the gap.

Faxon had birdies on Nos. 4 and 5. Maruyama followed with a double bogey at No. 7 when his second shot on the par-4, 455-yard hole flew over the green. He needed two chip shots to get onto the green and then two-putted.

Faxon birdied Nos. 9 and 11 to move to 14 under, within one stroke of Maruyama. *AP*

MARUYAMA tips his hat after making a par putt on the 18th hole. AP

O'zabal a stroke off Park

PULA, Mallorca—Jose Maria Olazabal goes into the third and final round of the weather-disrupted Mallorca Classic on Sunday just a stroke off Briton David Park's lead.

The Spaniard made some amends for a double bogey just before the second round was called off early on Friday because of lightning and heavy rain when he picked up a stroke in his remaining five holes on Saturday to shoot a one-under-par 69 and move to five-under-par 135.

Park's 64 before bad weather moved in on Friday had set a six-under target which Olazabal had to wait to try to overtake.

Play had been scheduled to resume at 0645 GMT but further deluges kept the players from the course until 1430 GMT. *Reuters*

TIGER CLINIC

Tiger Woods (left) gives some instruction to Eliot Bogan during the Coca-Cola/Tiger Woods Foundation Golf clinic at the Disney Palm golf courses in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, on Saturday. The clinic includes 100 golfers and took place at the Walt Disney World Resort. REUTERS

Rossi bags 3rd straight Aussie GP title

PHILLIP ISLAND, Australia—World champion Valentino Rossi of Italy won his third consecutive Australian Grand Prix motorcycle race when he defied a time penalty in the MotoGP class on Sunday.

Rossi, who clinched the series championship last weekend in Malaysia, steered his Honda around the Phillip Island circuit to complete the 27 laps in 41 minutes 53.543 seconds.

The Italian was handed a 10-second time penalty for passing fellow Italian Marco Melandri under a yellow caution flag but still had 5.212 seconds to spare over second placegetter Loris Capirossi on a Ducati.

Rossi's teammate, Nicky Hayden of the United States, was third, ahead of Spain's Sete Gibernau. After morning rain had made conditions slippery for the early races, the rain stopped and the track dried out.

Rossi, who started on pole, was sixth on the first lap but soon worked his way to the front and after taking charge was increasing his lead as the race progressed.

It was the Italian's eighth win of the season and his 32nd in the premier class of grand prix racing.

Australia's Troy Bayliss, riding a Ducati, crashed out of the race after three laps and lay motionless on the track. Bayliss fell after the front wheel of Melandri's Yamaha appeared to clip his bike as they raced close together.

Track officials said Bayliss had suffered a bruised neck and slight concussion, and would have precautionary checks at hospital.

Italy's Roberto Rolfo took the early lead and maintained the advantage to win the 250 c.c. race, leaving the battle for the riders' championship wide open. *AP*

ROSSI rides his Honda to victory in the Australian Grand Prix. REUTERS

PBA golf meet at Wack Wack

THE PBA Golf Classic is staging the first of its two championships rounds tomorrow at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club East Course.

A tight battle for the overall crown from among 30 players is expected with the handicap play in effect. Tee-off starts at 8 a.m.

The INQUIRER's Jun Engracia leads the Class A field with a 12-handicap, Shell board representative Bobby Kanapi Class B with a 25-handicap and Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes Class C with a 33-handicap.

Sports scribes Lito Tacujan, Ernie Gonzales, Ding Marcelo, Jong Arcano and PBA bets Manny Panlilio, Al Panlilio, Dr. John Lim and Melvin Mendoza are the other top guns in Class A.

In Class B, Kanapi has other fellow PBA board members Bert Manlapit, Ricky Vargas, Butch Alejo and Ira Maniquiz as rivals. In the same group are PBA Commissioner Noli Eala, San Miguel physical therapist Dondi Narciso and Red Bull Barako assistant team manager Andy Jao.

Concorde flies high, snares Floirendo Cup

By Edwin Villanueva

CONCORDE soared past Batangas Force in the last few strides to the wire to win the Don Antonio Floirendo Sr. Cup and steal the show yesterday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Guided superbly by star jockey Jeffril Zarate, Concorde engaged Batangas Force in a torrid battle down the stretch and eventually prevailed by a head in the 1,500-meter event.

The victory by Concorde, named by prominent horseowner Hermie Esguerra after the supersonic aircraft which will make its final commercial flight on Oct. 24, was fashioned out on Derby Day at the Carmona, Cavite racetrack.

"*Parang lumilipad pagsungaw ng rekta. Buti nametahan namin si* Batangas Force (She's flying when we entered the homestretch. It's good we nipped Batangas Force at the wire)," said Zarate of the 2-year-old filly sired by Mushi Mushi out of Rare Rusty Rose.

Concorde, the second choice who is conditioned by Nestor Manalang, stormed ahead when the field turned for home but Batangas Force, handled by apprentice Edwin Blancaflor, split horses to move in front, paving the way for the thrilling stretch duel. Winning time was 1:36 flat (18-24.5-25.5-28).

Batangas Force, owned by Ana Mendoza and trained by her father, Rudy, settled for P67,500. Super Dave wound up third followed by Calvin's Magic, top pick Apex, Alexi's Magic, Hazmagic, Little Girl and Speed King.

In the other featured races, horses owned by Philtobo officials triumphed as Midnight Lady of Ed Gonzalez (director) and Material Maker of lawyer Joy Rojas (secretary) ruled the Derby and Golden Girl Stakes, respectively.

Three-time Jockey of the Year Pat Dilema rode Midnight Lady (Señor Pete-Midnight Lass) and Material Maker (Strong Material-Rhummaker) to victories.

Concorde, Midnight Lady and Material Maker are expected to see action next in the 4th Philtobo-Mitra Cup championships on Nov. 9 at the Santa Ana Park.

SLR races slated

THE THIRD edition of the Sta. Lucia Cup unfolds Oct. 26 at the Santa Ana Park.

Six races that guarantee the winning horseowner a juicy P200,000 cash prize are featured in the racing festival sponsored by Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Corp.

The Sta. Lucia Cup, the main race, will have a guaranteed prize of P300,000 plus a trophy for the winner.

The event will serve as the venue to showcase Saddle & Clubs Leisure Park, a 576-hectare mixed-used estate that the developer is now working on which features commercial, residential, race track and golf facilities.

The developer has partnered with Philippine Racing Club Inc., Azkcon Construction & Development Inc., Harmony Homes Inc., Megatop Realty and lawyer Diogenes Bartolome.

Royale Homes Marketing Corp. will offer discounts on lots at its sales booth. It will also highlight other Sta. Lucia Realty projects such as Club Morocco Beach & Residential Estates; Orchard Townhomes in Dasmariñas, Cavite, and Pinewoods Golf & Residential Estates in Baguio City.

MADRID MASTERS

Ferrero gains final vs Massu

FERRERO reacts after winning his semifinal match against Federer. REUTERS

MADRID, Spain—Juan Carlos Ferrero beat Roger Federer, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, Saturday to reach the Tennis Masters Madrid final, and strengthen his lead in the race to the coveted year-end No. 1 ranking.

Ferrero faces Nicolas Massu on Sunday, both playing for their fourth title this year after the Chilean upset 15th-seeded Younes El Aynaoui, 7-5, 6-4.

French Open champion Ferrero, locked in a battle for No. 1 with No. 3 Federer and No. 2 Andy Roddick, came out blazing against Federer, losing only one point in his first three service games while breaking the Wimbledon champion's famously hard serve in the fifth.

Federer saved a break point in the ninth with an overhead smash, and held, but Ferrero reeled off four straight points on serve to win the first set in a sold-out Rockodromo Arena. The boisterous 9,400-strong audience, including Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, clapped hands rhythmically and shouted FER-RER-O! FER-RER-O!

"We played a great match," Ferrero said. "The first set? One break. That's it."

Federer missed another break chance in the eighth game of the second set, but broke through in the 10th to level the sets.

In the third, Ferrero broke Federer in the fifth game by drilling two beautiful service returns, and recovered from 0-30 down in the eighth to hold on and end a two-match losing streak to Federer.

"I wasn't too happy with my game," Federer said. "A few moments it was all right, but it was a little bit too much up and down. I took chances on my serves and double-faulted. I put myself in difficulties. He wasn't really controlling the match, I was.

"That is why I think this match hurts, you know, because I know he's taking an edge on me for the year-end (ranking)."

Massu reached his first major final by beating El Aynaoui, who was hobbled by a sore heel. However, the Moroccan refused to take an injection for the pain.

"To tell you the truth, yesterday and this morning . . . I was preoccupied that if I win the match today, there would be no finals tomorrow because I don't think my feet will be OK," El Aynaoui said. *AP*

Henin battles Dokic, seeks No. 1 ranking

ZURICH, Switzerland—Justine Henin-Hardenne doesn't want to miss her second shot at the world No. 1 ranking on Sunday.

Her nerve failed her last week, and the chance won't come again for at least two more weeks, which is why Henin-Hardenne is keener than ever to beat Jelena Dokic in the Swisscom Challenge final on Sunday and become the 13th woman in history to top the rankings.

Henin-Hardenne can't bear to fail. She won't play again until next month's WTA Championships after citing exhaustion in withdrawing from next week's Generali Open in Austria. The US and French Open champion had a shot at overtaking No. 1 Kim Clijsters last Sunday in the final at Filderstadt, Germany, but cracked under the pressure.

"I cannot make that same error this week," Henin-Hardenne said Saturday. "The pressure is here every day. It is normal to have lots of pressure, you just have to take your opportunities and that's what I try to do.

"So it is just another match tomorrow. I just try to stay relaxed, do what my coach tells me."

On Saturday, Henin-Hardenne dispatched Nadia Petrova, 6-4, 6-4, in the semifinals, while Dokic upset Clijsters, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

"If Justine wins tomorrow and becomes No. 1, I'll be happy for her," Clijsters said. "I've always said if it had to change, then it should go to another Belgian. She's had a great year and is probably the most improved player on the tour this year."

Dokic has managed to end a season-long slump. Until this week, she hadn't won two consecutive matches in three months. Her ranking slipped from the top 10 to 25th.

Dokic's first win over a No. 1 player since 1999, when she downed Martina Hingis, lifted her into her first final in 14 months. *AP*

Fight ends in controversial draw

MANCHESTER, England—Britain's Michael Brodie and South Korea's Injin Chi fought to a controversial draw Saturday night in a fight for the vacant WBC featherweight title.

Chi was originally declared the winner by a narrow decision, but the verdict was later changed to a draw due to a mistaken point deduction against Brodie.

In an action-packed 12-round bout at the MEN Arena, Chi knocked Brodie down in the second round and finished strongly over the last four rounds.

The judges scored it 114-112 and 113-112 for Chi and 113-113.

The result was clouded in controversy, however, as the judges, officials and WBC president Jose Sulaiman conferred and recounted the scorecards for nearly 10 minutes before announcing the scores.

It emerged that Brodie had been deducted a point for an accidental head butt in the opening seconds of the fight, something which had not been made explicitly clear at the time by the referee.

More than an hour after the fight, Sulaiman said he had mistakenly taken two points off Brodie—instead of just one—on the second of the scorecards, leaving the fight a draw and the title still vacant.

"It was an honest mistake and my mistake alone," Sulaiman said. "It was a terrific contest and there deserves to be a rematch."

Before the change, most observers felt Chi deserved the win but Brodie's camp claimed their fighter had been robbed and demanded a rematch.

"We expect justice," promoter Barry Hearn said. *AP*

CHI (left) ducks to elude a blow from Brodie during their WBC featherweight title contest in Manchester, England, Saturday. AP

Mexican pug captures WBO heavyweight title

HAMBURG, Germany—Mexico's Julio Gonzalez won the WBO light heavyweight title Saturday on a split decision, handing Dariusz Michalczewski his first defeat in 49 fights.

Gonzalez, 35-1 with 22 knockouts, survived a couple of goods shots and consistently landed uppercuts to pile up points against the Polish-born German, never known for his defense.

"I listened to what my corner said and I fought like a Mexican," said Gonzalez, ranked among the top three in all world boxing organizations.

The American judge ruled it 116-112 and the Canadian 115-113 for Gonzalez, while the German judge gave it to Michalczewski 115-113.

Despite the one scorecard, there was no argument from the German's camp over the decision.

"This time it wasn't enough," said Michalczewski, 35. "It's too early to say if I will fight again." *AP*

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WORLD SERIES

Marlins edge Yankees in opener

LINESCORES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
FLORIDA	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	7	1
NEW YORK	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	9	0

NEW YORK—Juan Pierre and the Florida Marlins had the Yankees on the run from the very start, stealing the World Series opener 3-2 from a New York team that looked as if it was still recovering from its last game.

"We're going to try to create havoc for the rest of the series," Pierre said. "We let them know what we're about, that we're going to keep pressure on them all Series."

True to form, the Yankees showed up in the ninth inning of Saturday's game and threatened after drawing a pair of walks. But somehow the Marlins held on, and it was speed that made the difference.

After a pair of walks, Ugueth Urbina got Alfonso Soriano on a called third strike and then retired Nick Johnson on a fly ball when Pierre streaked in from center field to end it.

"Speed definitely makes the difference," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "We got a first-hand look at it tonight."

Pierre led the majors with 65 steals this season and the Marlins had the most overall. They showed off their speed in a hurry with Pierre leading off with a bunt single and Luis Castillo following with a hit-and-run single.

"When you have one of those speed guys on, you certainly don't want a merry-go-round," Torre said.

With that, the wild-card Marlins were off in this 100th anniversary Series. Pierre later added a two-run single and a stolen base as Florida defeated David Wells and ended New York's record string of 10 straight home Series wins.

"I don't know why we should be awed. It's a credit to the players. They don't worry about where they're playing," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said.

Brad Penny, Dontrelle Willis and Urbina made the lead stand up—something that San Diego, the New York Mets and Arizona could not do in the late innings of previous Octobers at Yankee Stadium.

These Yankees seemed spent, having wrestled Boston to a draining but spectacular Game 7 win that took 11 innings and lasted into Friday's wee hours. The Marlins also needed seven games to beat the Cubs in the league championship series, but had an extra day to rest.

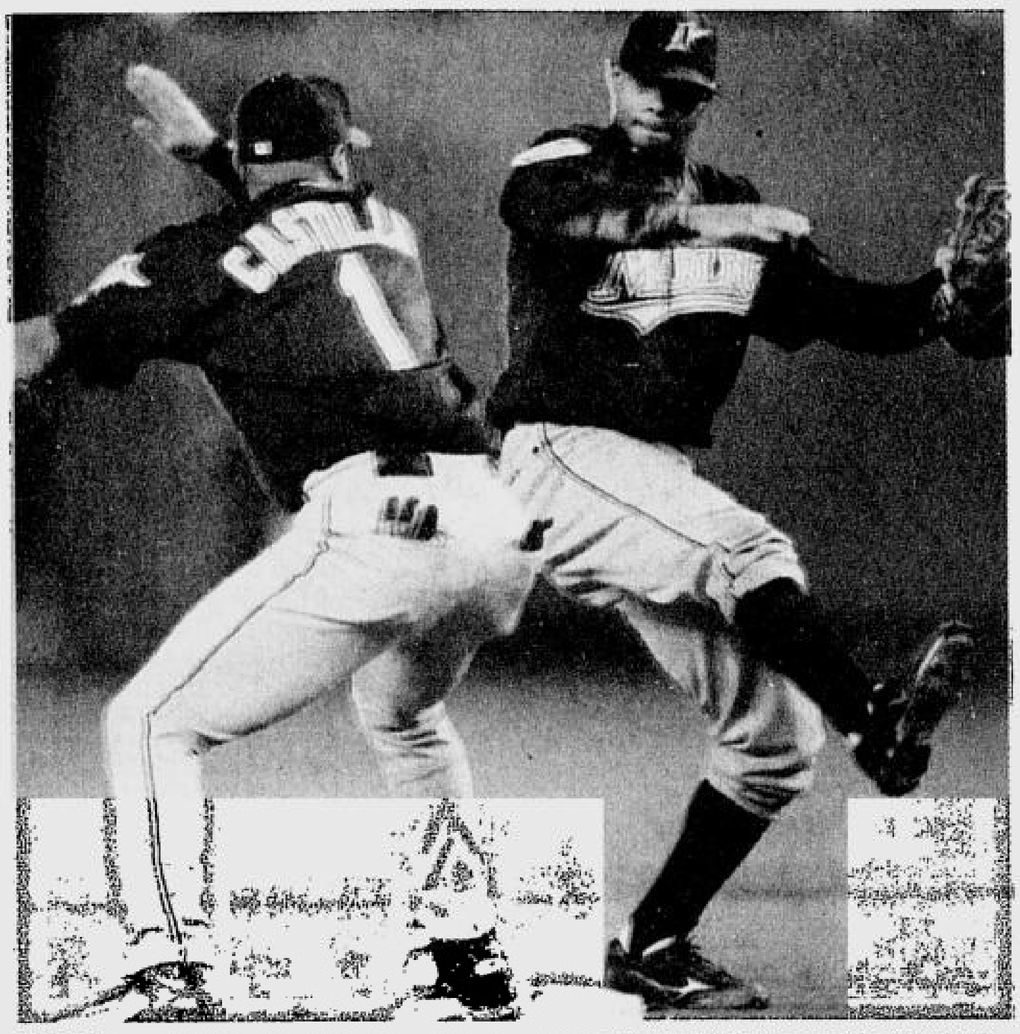
NLCS MVP Ivan Rodriguez starred in his Series debut. He hit a sacrifice fly in his first at-bat and the 10-time Gold Glove catcher later picked off Johnson at third base to cut short a rally.

The biggest play, however, might have come when third baseman Aaron Boone—whose homer won that Game 7—failed to throw a relay to the plate and allowed a run to score. The mistake angered Wells, who spun around in disgust.

"I couldn't tell whether Boone had a chance," Torre said.

The Yankees will try for a split at home when Andy Pettitte starts Game 2 Sunday night (Monday morning in Manila) against Mark Redman.

New York also lost the openers in their other two postseason series this year, to Minnesota and the Red Sox and Pettitte followed both with a win. *AP*



JUAN Pierre (right) and Luis Castillo celebrate after the Marlins' 3-2 win over the New York Yankees in Game 1 of the World Series at Yankee Stadium in New York. REUTERS

Embattled Lim proves NCAA critics wrong

HIS CITIZENSHIP may have been under question, but there was no doubting his capability as commissioner of the NCAA this season.

Graham Lim, tapped to oversee the country's oldest cage league on its 79th year, proved his critics wrong as the NCAA was hailed a big success in terms of competition, peaceful conduct of the games and officiating.

"I think he did a very good job as commissioner," said NCAA president Francis Gusi of San Sebastian.

The Letran Knights dethroned the San Sebastian Stags in a rubber match at the close of one of the tightest competitions ever in the seniors division.

Lim, whose citizenship as the secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines is being questioned, thanked the NCAA management for backing him all the way.

"I can't achieve anything without the cooperation of the NCAA member-schools. The result of this year's event was a product of teamwork, faith, talent and perseverance of the NCAA family," Lim, said.

Eastridge Invitational pro-am today

AN 18-hole celebrity pro-am competition today (Oct. 20) will usher in the inaugural Eastridge Invitational—a P1-million tournament patterned after the International of the PGA Tour—at the challenging Eastridge Golf Club course in Binangonan, Rizal.

Forty of the 120 professionals competing will get the chance to shoot for the cash prizes totaling P120,000 in the pro-am which will use the best-ball format.

Up for grabs is a P15,000 prize for the winning pro in the tourney bankrolled by Mega-Pro Resources International and Overseas Professional Achievers International Inc., which are companies owned by Japanese patrons of Eastridge golfers.

The runner-up receives P12,000, third placer P10,000, fourth P8,000 and fifth P6,000.

The entries can also double up their winnings since the team competition will also reward money for the top pros. The champion pro receives P12,000, runner-up, P10,000, third placer, P8,000, fourth, P6,000 and fifth, P4,000.

Leading the pro field are circuit veterans like Cassius Casas, Rey Pagunsan, Robert Pactolerin and Richard Sinfuego. Among the amateurs are Congressman Jack Duavit and Eastridge chair Frisco San Juan.

While the pros will be playing the gross format today, things will be much different in the tournament proper where a champion's cheque for P150,000 is on offer.

The difficult Modified Stableford scoring scheme used for the International in the US PGA Tour will be used for the first time in the local professional scene where pros try to earn as many points as they can with a score better than par getting rewarded with corresponding points and deductions for bogeys or worse.

A birdie is equivalent to two points, an eagle and hole-in-one get five points and double eagle worth 8 points. The player gets nothing for every par, but will lose a point for every bogey he makes and three points for double bogey or worse.

The tourney is being held in coordination with the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines.

Newsmakers-Tennistars duel up

THE NEWSMAKERS and Tennistars tangle anew in the 1st Pat de la Paz Memorial Cup on Oct. 26 at the tennis courts of the Philippine Oil Company in Fort Bonifacio.

The one-day tournament is in honor of De la Paz, PNOC executive who was appointed as Energy Chief under the administration of President Corazon Aquino. He was a tennis enthusiast.

The De la Paz Cup is the 4th leg of a series of tournaments organized by the Tennistars. The others are the RCBC Cup, the PNOC-sponsored Renato Constantino Cup and the Caltex-sponsored Pat Gonzales Memorial Cup.

Robert Mananquil, Tennistars president and director/columnist of the Journal Group of Publications, said De la Paz's widow, Corazon, SSS president, will grace the launching of the tournament and assist PNOC officials in the awarding of trophies to the winners.

Playing for the Newsmakers are Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce, German Ambassador Herbert Jess, Volker Avenmarg of the German Cultural Center, Gerard Barnard of the Swiss Embassy and Wolfgang Schanzenbach.

Others are DBP chair Nanny Nanagas, SSS vice president Philip Carino, former Prime Minister Cesar Virata and Jimmy Panganiban of RCBC, Director Ricardo de Leon of PNP, NAIA deputy general manager Art Atutubo and MMDA general manager Robert Nacianceno.

Also in the team are Rufino Bomasang, president of PNOC Exploration Corp., Cesar Tapia, president of PNOC Shipping Co., Art Balaoloa of the Department of Energy, Mario Taguines, Art Mori and other PNOC executives.

The Tennistars are composed of Tony Katigbak, Jess Diaz and Domini Suarez of the Philippine Star, Dennis Eroa and Thelma San Juan of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Ernie Lopez of ABS-CBN Publishing, Fort Yerro and Chit Lijauco of Manila Times, Vergel Santos of Business World, Loy Caliwan of Balita, Don Reyes of Manila Standard, Derrek Tesoro of Channel 7, Vic Milan of DWBR, Rollie Malicsi of CBS TV, Danny Gozo of Philippine News, Nemesio Dacanay, Mon Santiago, Peter Limqueco, Pons Doloroso, Joe Garcia, Ching Henson, Joe Balajadia, Nandy Pacheco, Dante Aquino and Resty Perez.

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9-month budget deficit hits ₱146.5B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUDGET deficit in the first three quarters has reached P146.5 billion as government revenues fell short of target while spending continued to accelerate, government sources said.

In September alone, the budget deficit widened to about P33 billion, based on preliminary government figures. The final amount would be announced in the next two days.

The fiscal gap last month exceeded the P22-billion ceiling although the deficit in the first nine months remained below the P149.5-billion target.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue sustained a shortfall of P3.1 billion in September when it collected only P29.6 billion against a target of P32.8 billion.

The government has set a spending ceiling of P69.55 billion in September while the revenue goal was placed at P47.47 billion. Both targets were missed.

The BIR said its nine-month collection of P311.13 billion was below the goal of P314.2 billion for the period. The BIR collects 72 percent of the government's annual revenues.

Combined with the Customs shortfall of about P500 million and excess spending of more than P8 billion, the government's budget deficit last month rose by 50 percent from about P22 billion in September 2002.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said the cumulative collection as of September was P25.6 billion or 9 percent higher compared to P285.49 billion in the same period last year.

"The shortfall in collection last month is expected to be temporary. The BIR remains upbeat in reaching its P424-billion target for the year," Parayno said.

The BIR chief blamed the drop in excise tax collection for the shortfall last month.

Excise taxes alone fell by P807 million against the previous year largely due to drop in the volume of removals of the auto and cigarette industry.

The BIR issued a regulation increasing the tax brackets of 18 cigarette brands starting September while the new excise tax law on automobiles took effect this month. These policy changes caused a slowdown in the sales of the two sectors.

The volume of removals is the BIR's basis in imposing excise taxes. The volume of removals from cigarette manufacturers dropped by 9.2 percent while motor vehicles registered a 78.2-percent decline, causing a 63-percent contraction in excise tax collection from the sector.

"The decrease in volumes from cigarette manufacturers and automobiles in September led to a consequent deterioration in their payment of income, value-added and other taxes," Parayno said.

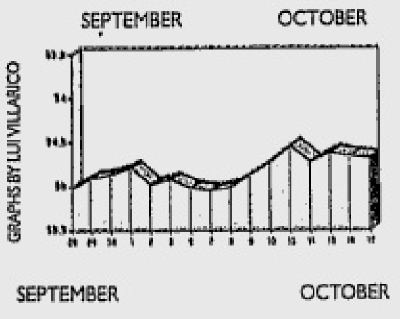
Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho noted that the BIR and Customs shortfall could be offset by higher collection of the Bureau of Treasury.

The budget deficit usually peaks in September because of higher interest payments.

The government had to pay quarterly interest on borrowings, including fresh bond issues like the P74.3 billion in retail treasury bonds and the $750-million, 10-year global bonds sold in July.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 17, 2003

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen firming up

LOCAL stocks are seen to continue firming up this week in the aftermath of the state visit by President George W. Bush, as investors anticipate a rosy earnings picture for the third quarter.

As the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index has now hit the highest levels for the year, traders said it may attempt to break past the next resistance level at 1,400.

"The mood will still be positive

STOCKS/B6

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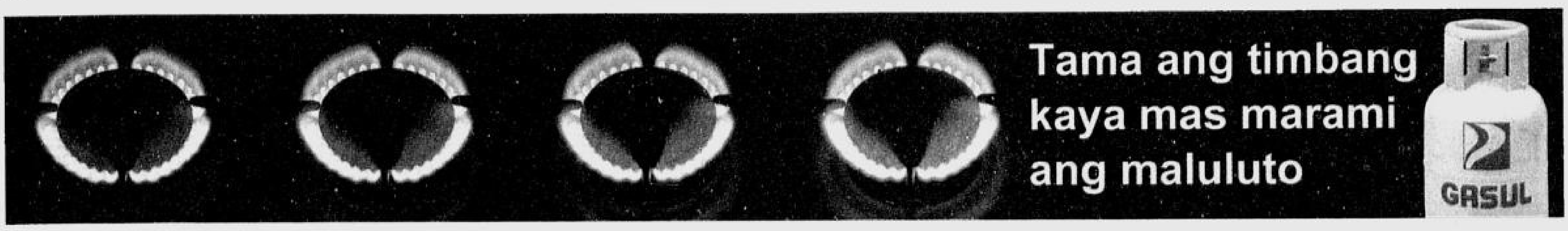
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PAL to increase flights to Japan

PHILIPPINE Airlines will implement a major upgrade in its services to Japan in December, augmenting capacity and frequency on the route in time for the Christmas holidays, and thereby fully using the country's entitlements under the air agreement with Japan.

PAL's action completes its obligation to the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), which granted the flag carrier new rights to fly to Japan in March 2003.

Starting Dec. 1, PAL will operate daily flights between Manila and Osaka, up 40 percent from the current five times weekly. The new frequency will add 300 seats to the busy route, where PAL operates a mix of Airbus A330-300 and A320-200 aircraft.

PAL will also upgrade its daily Manila-Tokyo service to the Boeing 747-400 as soon as its latest jumbo jet joins the fleet in December.

The new developments raise PAL's Japan services to near the level it was before the outbreak of multiple crises earlier this year, principally the SARS epidemic, the Iraq war, and numerous terror alerts and travel advisories.

The CAB assigned PAL new rights last March and the flag carrier immediately utilized these by launching a pioneering service to Okinawa and expanding frequencies to Fukuoka, both in June.

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Punongbayan & Araullo, the Grant Thornton (GT) member firm in the Philippines, is launching its Family Business Consulting Group (FBCG) unit on October 23, 2003, 6:00 pm at the Shangri-La Makati Hotel. Guest speaker for the cocktail event is GT's international family business consultant, Clayton Hebbard. Hebbard is a leading family business consultant with experience in succession planning, drafting family creeds, remuneration planning and conflict resolution, among others, and is a practicing family business consultant in Thailand and Hong Kong. Hebbard shall be presenting a brief overview of GT's PRIMA methodologies to executives and owners of family- managed businesses as well as the latest results of GT's global survey on family businesses.

PRIMA (People and Relationship Issues in Management) is a globally tested methodology, developed in-house by GT professionals, that helps find solutions tailored to the owner-manager's needs by identifying the overlaps between family, ownership and management goals. PRIMA employs the 12-factor approach which provides a checklist on the issues facing a business where there are relationship problems or where the owner-managers believe there are potential management, control or succession issues. This 12-factor approach includes succession planning, family member and non-member remuneration planning, pre-retirement structures and strategies and estate planning, among others.

To attend this family business forum, please contact Rowena Ramos at 886-5511 or visit the P&A web site, *http://www.punongbayan-araullo.com.*

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Bgy Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	49,580
Bgy Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	20,000
Bgy Ulango, Calamba, Laguna	659,872
Bgy Batas, Silang, Cavite	450,000
Bgy Laurel, Tanauan, Batangas	1,985,523
Bgy Caylaway, Nasugbo, Batangas	1,500,000
Bgy Sabang, Morong, Bataan	1,592,007
Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija	132,189
Commercial Lots	
Macapagal Avenue, Paranaque City	3,270
San Lorenzo South Complex., Sta. Rosa, Laguna	29,279
San Lorenzo South Complex, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	10,947
San Lorenzo South Complex, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	5,178
San Lorenzo South Complex, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	1,084
San Lorenzo South Complex, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	6,247
San Lorenzo South Complex, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	27,060
San Lorenzo South Complex, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	13,117
San Lorenzo South Complex, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	5,460
Acharon Blvd, General Santos City	17,996
Acharon Blvd General Santos City	2,564
Acharon Blvd General Santos City	5,065
Acharon Blvd General Santos City	6,465
Acharon Blvd General Santos City	240
Acharon Blvd General Santos City	210
Acharon Blvd General Santos City	233
Acharon Blvd General Santos City	728
Acharon Blvd General Santos City	300
Acharon Blvd General Santos City	202
Acharon Blvd General Santos City	168
Acharon Blvd General Santos City	210
Industrial Lots	
Bulacan Agro-Industrial Subd., Calumpit, Bulacan	2,016
Bulacan Agro-Industrial Subd., Calumpit, Bulacan	1,803
Bulacan Agro-Industrial Subd., Calumpit, Bulacan	1,871
Bulacan Agro-Industrial Subd., Calumpit, Bulacan	1,800
Bulacan Agro-Industrial Subd., Calumpit, Bulacan	1,958
Sumulong Highway, Antipolo	25,487
Residential Lots / Condominium Units w/ Parking:	
196 Lots, Riviera Golf & Residential Estates, Silamg, Cavite	300 – 943
48 Lots, San Lorenzo South Subd., Sta. Rosa, Laguna	66 – 183
154 Lots, Sta. Rosa Homes, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	71.5 – 176
2 Lots, Tagaytay Royale Estates, Tagaytay City	300 – 339
5 Lots, Las Pinas Royale Estates, Las Pinas City	200 – 360
57 Lots, Village East III, Binangonan, Rizal	189 – 928
23 Lots, East Ridge Residential Estates, Angono, Rizal	357 – 950
Nuestra Sra dela Paz Subd.,Sumulong Ave., Antipolo	347
8 Units Global Tower Condominium, Bangkal, Makati	33 – 268
1 Unit New Manila Condominium, N Domingo, New Manila QC	42 – 39
Golf Shares (GS) & Country Club (CC) Shares:	
864 GS Class A – Riviera Golf Club, Silang, Cavite	
876 GS Class B – Riviera Golf Club, Silang, Cavite	
498 GS Class C – Riviera Golf Club, Silang, Cavite	
40 GS Class B – Orchard Golf Club, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
70 GS Class A – East Ridge Golf & Country Club, Angono, Rizal	
4,359 CC – Riviera Sports & Country Club, Silang, Cavite	
Memorial Lots:	
15,809 Lots – Heaven's Gate Memorial Park, Antipolo, Rizal	

For inquiries, you may visit AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City or may contact MS. LIZA HIZON or MR. DARWIN MANZANO at telephone numbers 9124718, 9124723 and 9114071 locals 249 and 207 and MS. LIZA LORENZANA or MS. YASMINE SUTARIA at telephone numbers 9123695 or 9124724. We will be glad to arrange briefing and ocular inspection / site visits.

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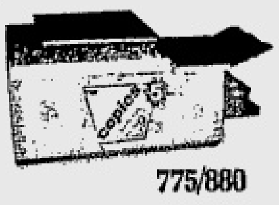

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Out of the debt trap

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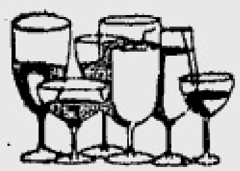

Victor C. Agustin

THE DEVELOPER of The Country Club has finally climbed out of the debt trap that had threatened to put the country's most exclusive golf club into the hands of moneylenders.

Container terminal king Enrique Razon has acquired controlling interest from club developer, Benito "Bomboy" Araneta, who used the cash from his fellow Castilaloy to banish the bankers.

According to the grapevine, Razon bought 55 shares from Araneta, who applied the proceeds to offset ballooning loans he availed of from Bank of Philippine Islands/Far East Bank to develop the membership-by-invitation only club.

It was not immediately clear at how much discount Razon had managed to acquire the Araneta bloc; at one point, the shares were being offered for P12 million each. Assuming that Razon acquired the Araneta bloc at 60 percent discount, that entire shareholding is still worth P264 million.

Along with Makati night club king Earl McCarthy and former Manila Golf Club president OV Roy, Araneta was said to have borrowed $20 million before the Asian crisis to develop about 200 hectares carved out from the sprawling Yulo hacienda in Canlubang, Laguna.

Double-whammed by the devaluation and the collapse of its target corporate base, the Country Club managed to sell less than 200 shares from a target of 1,000.

The club managed to isolate itself from the developer's financial problems and retained its exclusivity mainly by an invitation-only policy of marketing to prospective members.

The higher dues also became a natural obstacle.

Whereas the more established Manila Golf Club charges members at P7,000 a month, of which P2,000 is deductible for food and beverage consumption, the Country Club levies each member nearly P15,000/month, excluding special assessments.

Testing SEC's patience

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista and the entire SEC board have had enough with the Baguio Country Club's stonewalling.

The SEC en banc zapped the BCC board with a P132,300 fine, plus a daily escalation clause, for its continued refusal to obey a 2002 order to disclose in its proxy forms all pending criminal charges facing its board members led by its chair, Rep. Rodolfo Albano, and president, Federico Agcaoili.

As well, the SEC again ordered the BCC to disclose and make available the list of stockholders and the club's stock and transfer book, prior to next month's shareholders' meeting.

Instead of heeding the order and paying the fine, the BCC board questioned the SEC ruling before the Court of Appeals, while at the same time asking the SEC to reconsider its decision.

Notwithstanding the strategy of the BCC board to delay and elevate the issue to the appellate court, the SEC has scheduled another hearing on Wednesday to hear the nth appeal filed by the Baguio club.

Short takes

- THE organizer of the disastrous F4 concert, a certain Susan Lim, has been dodging calls from VIP ticket-holders asking for refund. A number of VIP holders were unable to watch the Taiwanese pop performance in the Ultra auditorium due to the collapse of security precautions and the ensuing bedlam.
- PUBLICIST/publisher Dante Ang said he never took on Fraport/Piatco/the Chengs as PR client, contrary to what was alleged in this column on Friday.

Heard through the grapevine

OTHERS get a gold watch. But retiring ABS-CBN president Federico Garcia instead received a gleaming Porsche Cayenne Turbo as farewell gift from ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III.

Guaranteed to rack up *pogi* points among aspiring actresses, the Teutonic tonic for midlife crisis costs about P10 million, post-excise tax reform.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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Asiana to serve Seoul-Clark route

By Michelle V. Remo

SEOUL-BASED Asiana Airlines is set to begin servicing the route from Seoul, South Korea, to Clark Field, Pampanga, and vice versa, indicating the rise in demand for travel to and from the former military base-turned tourism and economic zone.

According to Victor Luciano, executive vice president of Clark Development Corp. (CDC), Asiana would begin a regular flight on Oct. 30, initially on a twice-a-week frequency. The number of flights will be increased to three a week in December.

Luciano said Asiana Airlines would be using an Airbus jet with a 177-passenger capacity.

The CDC official

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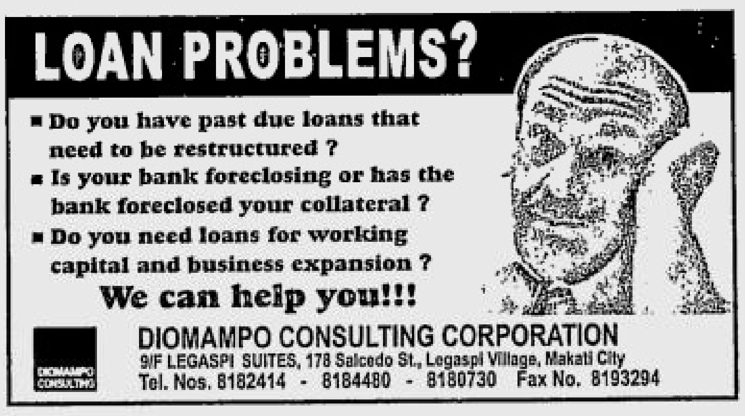
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Fitch says GMA's decision to provide predictability

By Clarissa S. Batino

FITCH Ratings has viewed positively the decision of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to run in the 2004 elections, saying her victory could provide certain predictability in the continuity of economic reforms in the country although it would have no bearing on the Philippines' debt ratings.

Paul Rawkins, senior director of Fitch's Sovereign and International Public Finance, said in an interview that his company was keeping a stable outlook for the Philippine debt ratings for the meantime.

The Fitch official, however, noted that there continued to be an overriding concern on the country's fiscal and external payment situation.

Like Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service, Fitch was also worried about the impact of election uncertainties to the country's fiscal and financial numbers.

Fitch has downgraded its rating on Philippine borrowings to "BB" last June from "BB plus."

A lower rating tends to raise the cost of borrowing for the government but government officials insisted that even after Fitch and S&P made a downgrade, the spreads on Philippine debt papers had tightened, indicating a more favorable cost.

"There is still some question on the fiscal side and how it holds together. Also, the external side is not doing well because of the slowdown in exports," Rawkins said.

The budget deficit has remained below the ceiling in the first nine months but increased spending bloated the gap between revenues and expenditures since July.

Exports continued to slow down as of August, bringing the eight-month growth to a dismal 0.2 percent. Exporters, however, remained hopeful that a 3-5 percent growth could be achieved.

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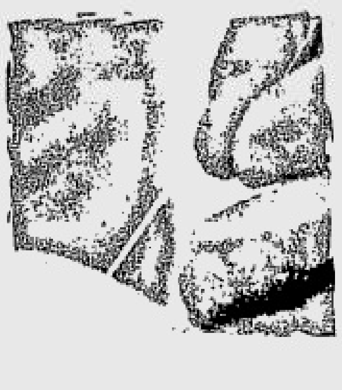

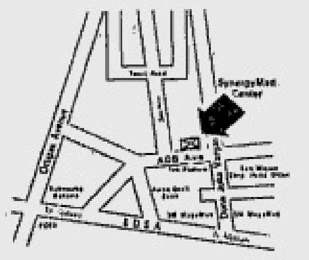

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On 21 November 1966, The World Tonight, an all-English newscast, premiered on CBN Channel 9 anchored by Hal Bowie and Henry Halasan. Its legacy of delivering world-class news presentation was sustained through its revival in the post-Marcos era ABS-CBN, with anchors Angelo Castro Jr. and Loren Legarda. After almost 25 years, The World Tonight, continues to be seen on the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), making it the longest-running newscast in the history of Philippine Television.

Meanwhile, after years of media censorship under Martial Law, ABS-CBN gave a new face to TV news reporting when TV Patrol premiered in 2 March 1987. The groundbreaking format effectively combined news, entertainment, public service and police reports delivered in the vernacular. The original set of four anchors included now Sen. Noli de Castro and broadcast veteran Frankie Evangelista. At once pulling in almost half of the evening viewers, TV Patrol has since been rating higher than other shows in primetime for more than 16 years. With this, ABS-CBN proved that a news program can both be a ratings topper and revenue earner.

TV Patrol began airing to a global audience in 1992. Initially, the tapes were flown over to San Francisco and shown on a two-day delay broadcast. Reaching a large segment of the Bay Area, going as far as Sacramento and San Jose, the newscast commanded a viewership of 60% by 1993. Continuously evolving and currently on same-day broadcast on The Filipino Channel (TFC) worldwide, TV Patrol has become part of every Filipino's life.

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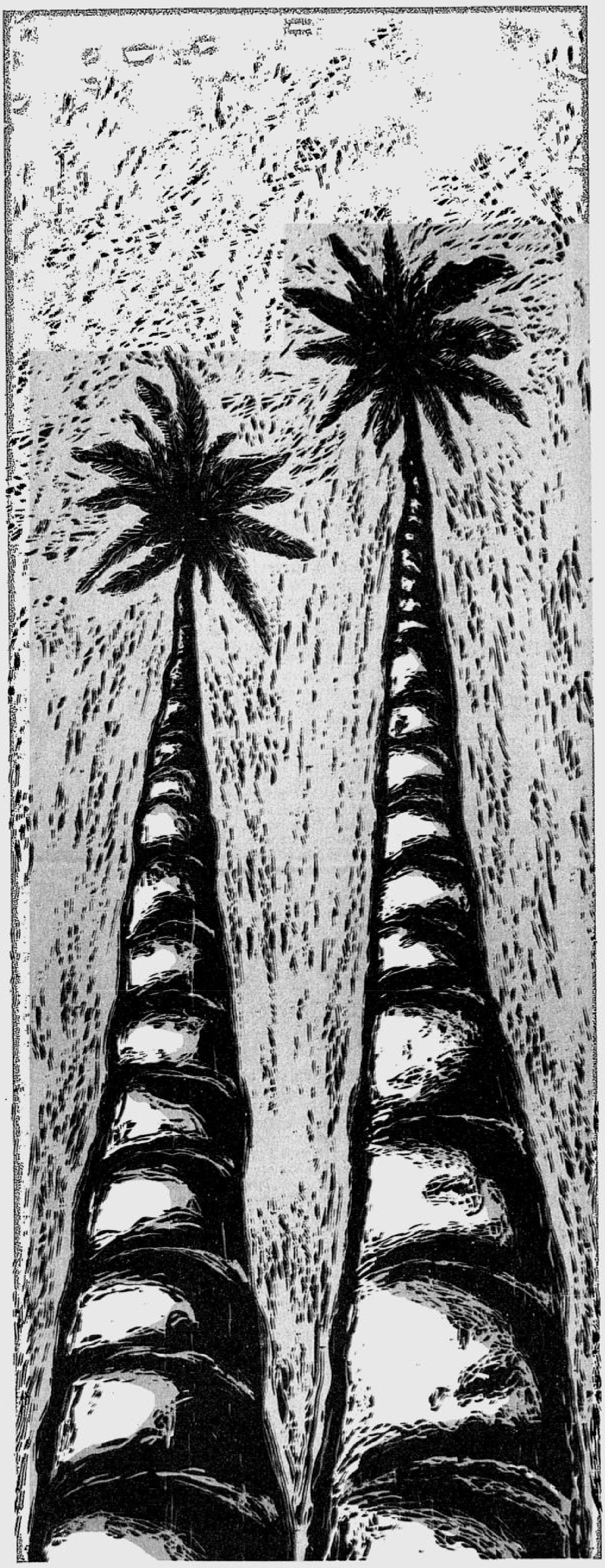

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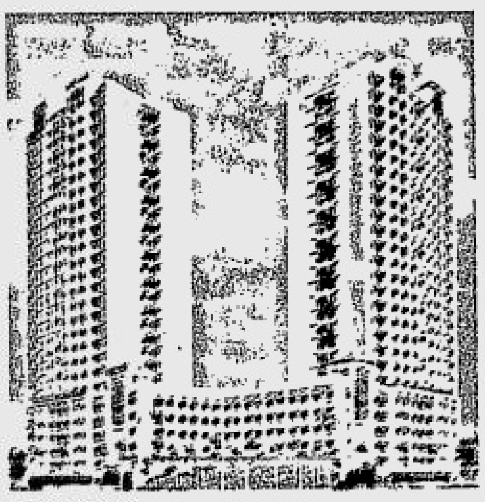

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Cielito F. Habito

HARDLY a day passes that I don't get into a conversation where I am asked if there is hope for the Philippine economy. The view can indeed look rather gloomy and discouraging if you allow all the negative news and unfavorable statistics that just won't seem to stop coming to overwhelm you.

Good news vs bad news

In the 1990s, some of us used to make a hobby out of counting positive business and economic stories against negative ones in the business section of the newspapers. I recall that through most of the 1990s, the good-news stories outnumbered the bad-news stories by about five to one. Invariably, faxed clippings of the latter would be coming the way of us Ramos Cabinet members even before 7 a.m. from Malacañang, complete with handwritten instructions from President Ramos to do something about it.

I'd imagine that if President Macapagal is doing the same with her Cabinet members, Malacañang must be running up an astronomical fax and phone bill these days.

Still, we need not despair over all the bad news, as there is hope if one only looks beneath the national scene and appreciates what is happening at the regional and local levels. After all, it is what happens in the regions of the country that add up to our overall economic performance. So if the domestic economy turned up a respectable 4.4 percent output growth last year, and 3.9 percent this year so far, it is because the local economies in the various regions of the country are propelling that growth.

Still Manila-centric

It is true, though, that Metro Manila and its surrounding provinces still account for the lion's share of our country's overall output and income. As of last year, the National Capital Region (NCR) along with Regions III (Central Luzon) and IV (Southern Tagalog) together accounted for over half of the total, or 55.2 percent. Admittedly, much remains to be done to decentralize and disperse economic activities more broadly and more equitably across the regions of the country. In the 1990s, we tried to correct this by consciously providing larger shares of the infrastructure budget to Mindanao and the Visayas, and by identifying and investing in regional industrial centers in each region of the country. Obviously, we have yet to see the effects of these moves.

Growth starts in the regions

Nonetheless, the latest Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) statistics show that all regions of the country except for one had contributed positively to the overall growth of the domestic economy in 2002. The lone exception was Region XIII or the Caraga Region in Mindanao, which posted a very slight decline in output of 0.4 percent.

Southern Tagalog with its booming Calabarzon industrial estates led the regions with a 6.5-percent growth. Ilocos followed with a 6-percent growth, propelled by an 18.6-percent industrial sector growth. Central Mindanao (5.6 percent) and the Bicol Region (5.5 percent) were next, followed by Western Mindanao (5.4 percent) and Western Visayas (5.0 percent).

Perhaps unexpectedly, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) came in with an impressive 4.8 percent. Metro Manila only comes in eighth, or at the median, tied with Central Visayas with a 4.5 percent growth rate. Eastern Visayas (4.4 percent) rounds up the list of regions that have grown at or above the national average. The good news here is that the majority of the regions (10 out of 16) grew faster than the national average; that is, regional growth is indeed propelling our economy's overall growth. In other words, much more is happening in our economy than what we can see in Metro Manila.

Supporting our local economies

One of the significant trends we've been seeing in recent years is the sprouting of shopping malls like SM, Robinsons, Gaisano, Olivarez and Walter Mart in many parts of the country. This is a clear manifestation of the growing purchasing power in the regions, propelled in part by OFW remittances, to be sure, but still mostly by increasing domestic income. We would all do well to be conscious about doing our share to help strengthen our local economies. To begin with, government agencies can consciously raise the share of the regions in their public investment budgets. Banks can consciously push for more loans in the countryside rather than siphon off rural savings toward Manila-based enterprises. Other businesses can consciously explore branching out into the provinces more actively (there are vast untapped opportunities out there!). And moneyed provincial residents can consciously invest in countryside-based enterprises rather than whisk off their capital to Metro Manila or worse, overseas.

Even we ordinary consumers can play an important role here. As a resident of Los Baños, Laguna, I constantly remind myself to buy everything I need within the town whenever I can, rather than shop in Manila where I spend my working hours. This way I am helping strengthen the local economy and avoid further concentrating income and wealth in the metropolis. If all of us who had the choice between shopping in the local neighborhood stores or in the urban centers consciously chose the former, we would help spread the economy's growth more evenly across the Philippine countryside.

Send comments to chabito@ateneo.edu

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-17197
As of October 20, 2003

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A	1,300,000	-
Baguio Country Club	750,000	650,000
Canyon Woods	160,000	100,000
Camp John Hay	-	210,000
Capitol Hills	170,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	160,000
Club Filipino	170,000	140,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	300,000/450,000**	260,000
Eastbridge	100,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	190,000/220,000*/250,000**	190,000**
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	10,700,000/12,000,000*	11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,300,000	2,100,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	450,000/600,000*	500,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	150,000/300,000*	100,000
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	230,000	-
Phil. Columbian	60,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	-	165,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	140,000/165,000*/380,000**	100,000
Rockwell Leisure Club	350,000	320,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	70,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,650,000*	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	450,000	340,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	830,000	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	650,000
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	250,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	140,000	-

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E-mail: gwclubshares@pacific.net.ph

GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of October 20, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,150,000	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	230,000	280,000
Canlubang	450,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	150,000	180,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	Please Call
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	200,000
Club Filipino	130,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	190,000	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	10,300,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	450,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	450,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	100,000
Mimosa (Individual)	115,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	25,000	35,000
Montemar (corporate)	35,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	158,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	140,000	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	60,000	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Spa & Lodge	520,000	700,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,100,000	1,300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands	820,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	120,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	250,000
Valley Golf	250,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,000,000	7,000,000

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As of October 17, 2003

	SELLING	BUYING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	-	1.1M
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB		650K
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB "B"	60K	-
CAMP JOHN HAY	220K	-
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450K	
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		150K
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	340K	
CLUB FILIPINO		140K
EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	85K	
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	-	380K
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "C"		350K
EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	85K	-
FAIRWAYS & BLUE WATER	780K	-
FOREST HILLS GOLF CLUB "A"	175K	-
FONTANA "D"	50K	-
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250K	-
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	-	10.8M
MANILA POLO CLUB		2.2M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	460K	400K
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"		530K
METRO CLUB "A"	150K	
MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB "C"	-	35K
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	please call	
PUNTA FUEGO	-	450K
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB		175K
RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	120K	
SHERWOOD HILLS "B"		160K
SPLENDIDO	300K	-
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1.3M	
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	-	750K
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS		650K
VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	130K	
VALLEY GOLF CLUB		260K
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	please call	-

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ACCORD CAPITAL
SEC License Broker #A20013392
clubshares
As of Oct. 20, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Orchard "C"	-	250,000
Celebrity Sports	170,000	-
Evercrest	-	50,000
Fairways Blue Waters	-	150,000
Forest Hills	Pls. Call	180,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	220,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)	9,000,000	-
Manila Golf (Corp.)	10,000,000	-
Manila Polo	2,200,000	-
Manila Yacht	-	450,000
Mimosa	-	280,000
Montemar (Ind.)	-	35,000
Philippine Columbian	90,000	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	850,000
Quezon City Sports Club	165,000	-
Riviera	-	300,00
Royale Tagaytay (Corporate)	-	125,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	380,000
Valley Golf	250,000	270,000
Valle Verde((Indv.)	120,000	Pls. Call
Valle Verde (Corp.)	200,000	300,000
Wack Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	7,000,000

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 17, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	27,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46	45.5	46	568,100
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	2,760
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	1,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	36.5	35	36	209,200
Export And Ind. Bank Inc.	0.77	0.8	0.77	0.8	3,600,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	29	28	28	198,700
Philippine National Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	49,400
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	7,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	536,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	20,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1535	1535	1535	1535	50
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	75,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1330	1350	1330	1340	5,150
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	3,100,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	740	750	740	745	171,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.045	7,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.045	4,900,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	20,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	7,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.87	0.88	0.83	0.84	12,330,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	715	705	705	626,500
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	16,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	98,500
Manila Electric Co. B	22.25	22.25	21.75	21.75	661,100
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.04	1,487,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	1,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3	2.95	2.95	160,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	206,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30	30	29,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	211,200
RFM Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.73	340,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	140,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56.5	53,600
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	62.5	62	62	543,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	3,594,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	270,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	178,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.72	40,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	14,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.61	6,810,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	150,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.155	230,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	750,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	60,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	326,300
Ionics Inc.	1.68	1.76	1.68	1.74	2,237,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	139,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.06	3,455,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	10,370,000
Music Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	2,020,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	270,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	1,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	1,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.61	4,550,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	350,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.37	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	29	29	28.5	28.5	304,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,700
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	68,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	8,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	2,602,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	800,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.245	0.25	890,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	3,067,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	600,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	4,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	4,866,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.2	1.2	1.12	1.12	67,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.245	12,840,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	22,580,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.009	104,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.009	166,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	1,280,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	130,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	60,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	10,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	2,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	5,366,660	62,171,075.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	161,755,000	702,321,310.00
PRO	12,849,000	54,370,500.00
Mining	307,097,000	13,607,200.00
OIL	72,000,000	259,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	559,067,660	832,729,085.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	455.07	UP 0.63
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,989.52	UP 0.12
PRO	610.27	DOWN 4.65
Mining	1,730.78	UP 65.96
OIL	1.35	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	824.03	UP 6.83
Composite	1,367.33	DOWN 0.97

NO. OF ADVANCES: 29; NO. OF DECLINES: 32; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 99
NO. OF TRADES: 2,184

CURRENCIES

October 19, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.862887221	1.000000	54.647000
Japan	Yen	0.007853	0.009101	0.497300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.44361	1.673000	91.424400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111476	0.129189	7.059800
Switzerland	Franc	0.646358	0.749064	40.934100
Canada	Dollar	0.654595	0.758610	41.455800
Singapore	Dollar	0.495628	0.574383	31.388300
Australia	Dollar	0.595999	0.690703	37.744800
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.288947	2.652661	144.960000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.230104	0.266667	14.572600
Brunei	Dollar	0.494208	0.572738	31.298400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000118	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.021697	0.025145	1.374100
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	0.234953	0.272287	14.879700
European Union	MonetaryEuro	1	1.158900	63.330400
ArgentinaPeso	0.3033	0.351494	19.208100	
Brazil	REAL	0.303513	0.351741	19.221600
Denmark	Kroner	0.134616	0.156006	8.525300
India	Rupee	0.019053	0.022080	1.206600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.227106	0.263193	14.382700
Mexico	New Peso	0.076491	0.088645	4.844200
New Zealand	Dollar	0.513318	0.594884	32.508600
Norway	Kroner	0.121325	0.140603	7.683500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015006	0.017391	0.950400
South Africa	Rand	0.123587	0.143225	7.826800
Korea	Won	0.000734	0.000851	0.046500
Sweden	Kroner	0.111444	0.129152	7.057800
Syria	Pound	0.020545	0.023810	1.301100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025582	0.029647	1.620100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000541	0.000627	0.034300

Stocks seen firming up

From page B1

but investors will now focus on the releases of third-quarter corporate results," said Astro del Castillo, director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

He said Bush's visit was a big boost to market sentiment as this would bring fresh military and economic assistance to the country.

Del Castillo said the market would likely trade within the range of 1,330 to 1,370 this week.

BPI Securities agreed that the market would continue trading on the upside this week, but rallies would likely be tempered by spurts of technical correction.

"Third-quarter results, which are expected to be released as early as next week, should reinforce buying on select sectors with stronger earnings growth potential such as telecom, property and consumer stocks," BPI Securities said.

BPI Securities noted that last week, the major news was the sale of Deutsche Telekom's stake in Globe Telecoms.

"The discounted selling price and the fact that Globe will be buying back a large chunk of shares may have capped Globe's recent rise in share price. However, the fact that Ayala Corp. will end up with a larger stake in Globe may have boosted sentiment on the issue," BPI Securities said.

The brokerage said that market weakness was still an opportunity to accumulate stocks. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Land titling bill kills Torrens system

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE TORRENS system of titling land has been with us since Spanish times. Now, this time-tested system is imperiled by House Bill 6255.

In an institutional policy study led by the Department of Budget and Management, the present land administration system was found to have serious defects in both structure and operations. There are multiple land administrative agencies, laws, titling processes, standards for surveying and mapping. There are also multiple certificates of title, steps for land transfers and valuations. There is a raft of other flaws. The system is inefficient, expensive to the landowner, and results in countless fake titles.

The proposed solution is to merge all land administration agencies into a super-body called Land Administration Authority. LAA will be a new addition to the long list of government corporations. The proposal is being simultaneously pushed at the House and the Senate. A high-powered public relations blitz is on the way.

Centralizing powers and functions in a single agency is, in a sense, laudable. It usually is a faster and more coordinated system of producing results. But if the agency becomes too big and unwieldy, problems arise in supervising personnel, ending in a surge of more incompetence, inefficiency and corruption.

It seems to me that the problem really is nothing but red tape. I had a taste of this red tape when I had to transfer the title to my house and lot after my wife passed away. Armed with the BIR's authority to transfer the title to myself and my sons and daughters (which took 14 months to issue), I went to the Register of Deeds. It took me four more months to put together all the required supporting documents, most of which were the same documents I had earlier submitted to BIR.

Many of the regulations on land administration can be cut outright without creating a super-body like the LAA.

Another objection to the bill is that the LAA will be under the watchful eye of an oversight committee of Congress. Oversight committees seem to be a fad among our lawmakers nowadays. All these committees have been able to do is to make the agency being watched over as totally politicized.

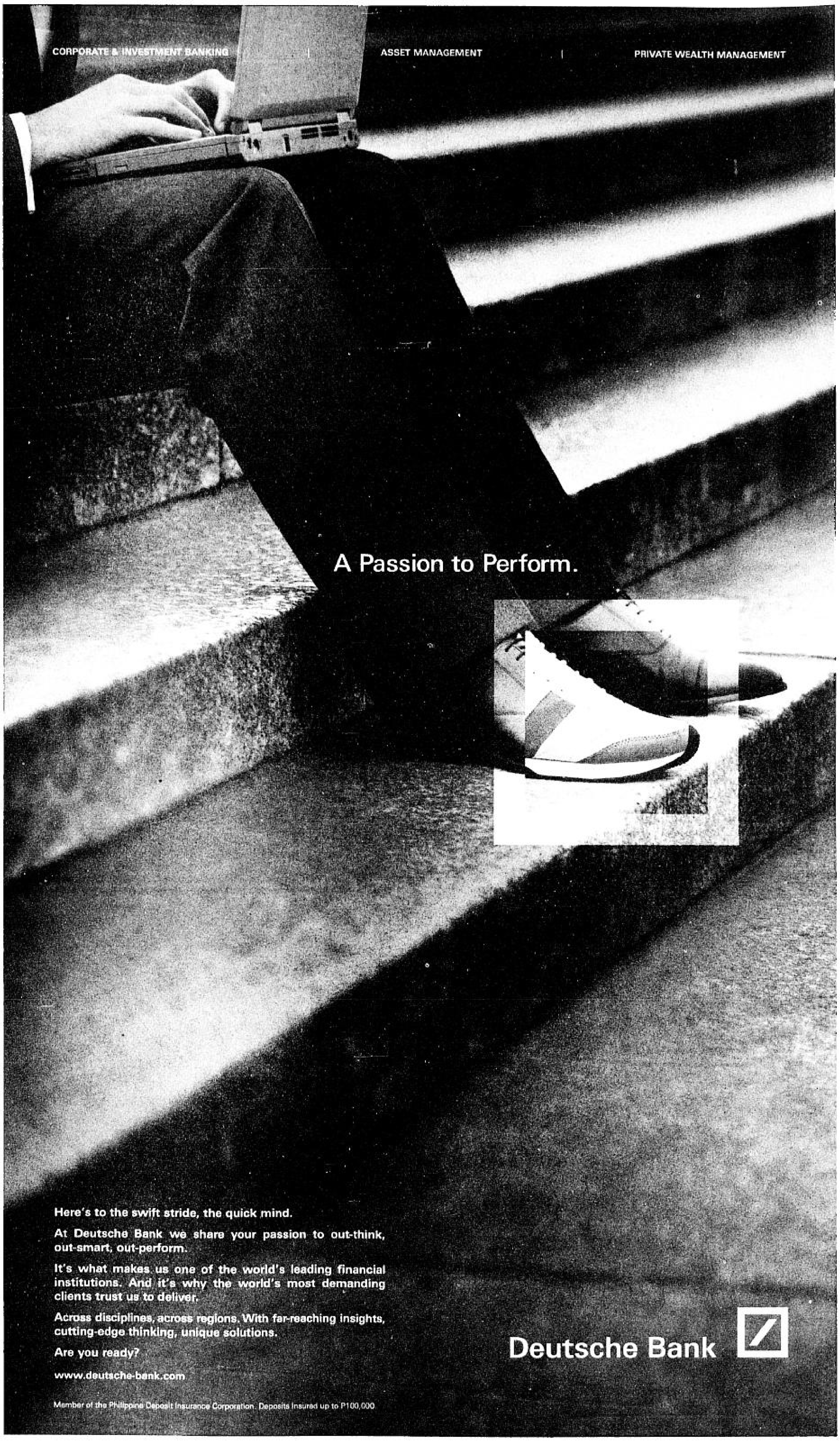
But my strongest objection to the bill is that it will kill the Torrens title system as has been practiced here since Spanish times. The Torrens title proclaims to the entire world your unquestioned ownership to your land. What the bill proposes is the registration of titles of land under the Torrens system to be transferred from the courts to LAA.

The registration of titles under the Torrens system has been placed under the jurisdiction of the courts as a form of check-and-balance, to minimize if not eliminate fraud in the issuance of titles. Transferring the registration of titles to an administrative agency such as the LAA will remove the check-and-balance and will increase the likelihood of fraud.

Historically, more fraud is being committed in administrative agencies than in courts. One reason is the courts are under the supervision of the Supreme Court, a non-political entity. The present system may be bad enough. But vesting the registration of titles in an administrative agency will make the situation worse, because of the frequency of fraud in an administrative agency.

Worse, LAA will be attached to, and supervised by, the Office of the President. With all due respect, the OP is not known for its scientific and professional methods of supervising government corporations. The OP is structured to follow political motives, instead of judicial ones.

Inspite of the flaws in our judicial system (As some of my lawyer-friends like to say, "We have the best judicial system that money can buy."), I would rather take my chances with some judge under the supervision of the Supreme Court.



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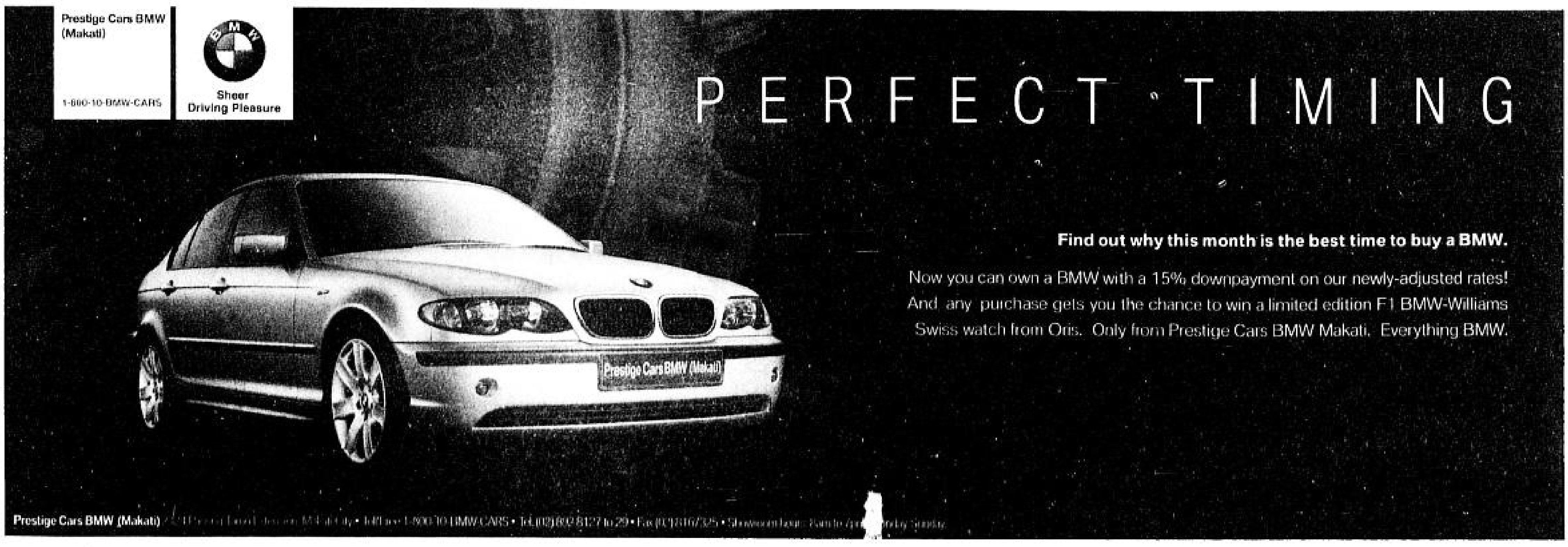

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Banks' dollar deposits up 8% to $13B in Sept.

REYES

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANKING sector's outstanding dollar deposits stood at $12.893 billion as of September, up 7.88 percent or $942 million from $11.951 billion a year ago, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

The substantial increase in FCDU (Foreign Currency Deposit Units) deposits this year triggered suspicion that local investors might be buying dollars in the spot market and depositing them temporarily in the banks' FCDUs before using the foreign currency to buy dollar-denominated sovereign debt papers.

In early September, the policy-making Monetary Board issued a circular prohibiting local investors from buying dollars from the spot market to buy Republic of the Philippines or ROP bonds.

"The week-on-week movement in September was normal. There was nothing irregular about them," said BSP Deputy Gov. Alberto Reyes.

The law provides absolute secrecy to deposits in FCDUs.

Still, the higher FCDU deposit level gives the central bank some security as FCDU accounts complement the country's external reserves of $16.06 billion as of end-September.

The FCDUs and the gross international reserves serve as the country's main line of defense against problems related to external payments and foreign exchange volatility.

As of end-2002, the banks' dollar deposits stood at $12.86 billion or 1.3 percent lower than the $13.027 billion the previous year.

The FCDU deposits represent the bulk of the banks' dollar assets that reached $16.622 billion as of end-2002 or 4.9 percent higher than $15.489 billion in 2001.

The banks' FCDU deposits have provided the country a form of security in times of crises such as the 1983 debt crisis, the 1986 EDSA revolution, the subsequent coups, the 1997 Asian crisis and the 2001 Edsa uprising.

Banks started operating separate dollar deposit units in 1983 with a seed fund of only about $600 million.

The local dollar deposit unit represents mostly deposits and savings of overseas Filipino workers. This makes the country's dollar deposits more stable compared with those of other countries, the central bank said.

ABS-CBN issuing $150M in secured notes

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. has mandated Credit Suisse First Boston and Bear Stearns to handle the issuance of $150 million worth of senior secured notes. Proceeds of the issuance will be used for debt refinancing.

The issue, which is expected to be launched this week, was given a B+ rating by Standard and Poor's and Ba3 rating by Moody's Investor Service on Friday.

This issue will be guaranteed by ABS-CBN's major operating subsidiaries and secured by all the properties and moving assets of the company.

"A key constraining factor in ABS-CBN's rating is the poor financial situation of its owner Benpres (Holdings Corp.), which controls 85 percent of the shareholders' voting rights in ABS-CBN," said Sharad Jain, credit analyst and director in Standard & Poor's Corporate and Infrastructure Ratings Group.

It noted that Benpres had been unable to repay maturing liabilities since June 2002 and was currently negotiating with its creditors for the restructuring of $550 million in debts.

"The proposed note issuance incorporates a ring-fencing mechanism to reduce the risk of co-mingling of ABS-CBN's cash flows with those of its parent and associate companies, through loans, aggressive dividend payouts, or capital returns. However, the ring fencing is weakened by the lack of creditors' control on the nomination of the independent directors," Jain added.

GMA 7 to tap partners for overseas venture

By Abigail L. Ho

GMA Network Inc. is currently in talks with two United States-based direct-to-home (DTH) and cable television service providers to pave the way for the network's international expansion.

GMA senior vice president for finance Felipe Yalong said in an interview that the broadcasting firm would likely launch its international business early next year.

GMA Network is planning to break into the international market by going into the DTH business using its existing infrastructure plus those of its potential partners.

Rival ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., through ABS-CBN International, did the same thing in 1995 after seeing how tough it was to market a Filipino channel to cable operators in the US.

A source familiar with the matter earlier said that ABS-CBN had a difficult time negotiating with and convincing at least 50 cable operators in the US to carry The Filipino Channel (TFC), the network's own cable television offering.

The Lopez-owned network started earning from its international operations in 1998 or 1999, three to four years after the launch of its DTH service.

But GMA Marketing and Productions Inc. president and chief operating officer Manuel Quiogue said in an earlier interview that GMA would not be sinking as much money into its international venture as ABS-CBN had. He said the broadcasting firm's international business would not be as capital-intensive as its rival's as GMA management remained prudent.

GMA is also set to reopen its UHF station, Channel 27, by next year.

Two years ago, GMA shut down the operations of Channel 27 in preparation for then expected buy-in by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Channel 27 was then carrying music channel V Philippines, which directly competed with PLDT subsidiary Nation Broadcasting Corp.'s MTV Philippines.

With the shutdown of channel 27, V Philippines pulled out of the Philippine market. The PLDT buy-in, however, did not materialize.

OUTSTANDING DRIVERS
Energy Secretary Vincent Perez gasses up a public utility jeepney at a Caltex station in Pasay City during the launch of the Outstanding Public Transport Drivers. With him is Caltex country chair Tim Leveille. RUDY ESPERAS

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Conference Theme:
"NEW IDEAS TO OUST OLD MINDSETS"
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Dominic Barton, Chairman for Asia Pacific Practice of McKinsey & Co., will be the opening keynote speaker of the conference. He is based in McKinsey's Seoul Office where he has worked for the past 5 years. He was previously based in Toronto where he spent 11 years serving a range of Canadian, US and Asian corporations and governments. He is also a member of the firm's Shareholder Council (a number of Directors acting as board to the firm) and the Co-Chair of the Partner Review Committee.

SPEAKERS:
Mr. DOMINIC BARTON, *Chairman for Asia Pacific Practice, McKinsey & Co.*
Mr. HOWARD D. BELTON, *Chair/CEO, Unilever Philippines, Inc.*
Mr. AHMED REDA CHAMI, *Chair, Microsoft Asia Pacific*
Mr. JONATHAN A. GURANGO, *CEO, Webworks OS, Inc.*
Mr. ROLANDO B. HORTALEZA, *Chair / CEO, Splash Corporation*
Ms. CHIT JUAN, *President/CEO, Figaro Coffee Company*
Ms. LOIDA NICOLAS-LEWIS, *Chair/ CEO, TLC Beatrice Int'l Holdings*
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SEC going after erring foundations

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has started cracking down on foundations that have been allegedly duping the public with false promises of benefits.

SEC compliance and enforcement department director Tomas Syquia said that the corporate watchdog had received complaints about "anomalies" committed by some foundations. For instance, some foundations solicit money from members saying they will provide loans although they do not have the capability and authority to do so.

Syquia said that was clearly misrepresentation.

As the foundations operate mainly in the provinces, the SEC had to seek help of local government units and the local police in going after these foundations.

In the meantime, Syquia said the SEC was also investigating companies for Corporation Code offenses. Some companies do not file necessary reports with the SEC or do not meet certain citizenship requirements.

Earlier, the SEC said it would intensify its compliance monitoring activities this year to ensure that companies comply with the country's securities laws and SEC rules and regulations.

In line with this, the SEC said it would implement the Compliance Monitoring and Evaluation System, an automated facility to be used in monitoring the compliance of registered entities with government laws and regulations.

The CMES will enable online analytical processing of the financial performance of registered entities, as well as provide a mechanism to monitor enforcement of actions against non-complying companies.

The SEC said it would also strengthen on-site compliance audits and on-site investigations to verify suspected or alleged violations of SEC rules and regulations.

Negros-Cebu interconnection plan OKd

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE firm National Transmission Corp. (Transco) said the regional development council of Central Visayas had approved the P2.2-billion Negros-Cebu interconnection project, which aims to address the looming power shortage in the Visayas.

In a statement, Transco said the RDC's approval was on condition that the energy firm would secure the endorsements of the Cebu and Negros Oriental provincial development councils and obtain the environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Negros-Cebu link is part of the Cebu-Negros-Panay (CNP) interconnection up-rating project, which is seen crucial in ensuring the security and stability of electricity supply in the area.

The CNP project would double, from 100 megawatts to 200 MW, the capacity to transmit power between the Visayas islands and optimize the use of indigenous power from geothermal energy-rich Leyte.

The Negros-Cebu project entails the installation of a 109-kilometer, 138-kilovolt overhead transmission line and a 17.8-km sub-sea cable connecting Transco's Santander substation in Cebu and the Amlan substation in Negros Oriental.

The other component of the CNP project is the P2.3-billion Negros-Panay up-rating project, which will double the transmission capacity of the 18.8-km sub-sea cable from 100 MW to 200 MW.

Last August, Transco president Alan Ortiz said the company had identified some P4.7 billion worth of projects that would support several vital inter-island connection works worth a total of P11.2 billion under the Visayas Island Transmission Augmentation Program or Project Vista

Ortiz explained that most of Transco's high-profile projects were in the Visayas as the region was the most geographically fragmented aside from having the most urgent needs in terms of power supply.

Feeds sector sees 8-10% sales growth

By Christine A. Gaylican

SAN Miguel Foods Inc.'s BMEG Agri-Feeds expects to post a moderate growth in sales this year despite the prolonged impact of weather disturbances to its clientele in the agriculture sector.

In an interview, company vice president and manager for national feeds George Nava said that although the P80-billion commercial feeds industry was reeling from the increasing cost of inputs and flat demand, the company was expecting to hit 8 percent to 10-percent growth in sales.

Nava admitted that this would be slower than the two-digit growth rates achieved in the last two years.

"The entire feeds industry is affected by the fish poisoning problem that hit key aquaculture areas like Pangasinan during the first semester. It slowed down our sales of fish feeds," explained Nava to the INQUIRER.

He added that the company was expecting higher demand for feeds especially from the livestock sector in the second half in preparation to the seasonal rise in demand for pork and ham during the Christmas season.

"Hopefully, the high demand would be sustained until next year, which is an election year," Nava noted.

BMEG currently holds a quarter of the commercial feeds market. It has about 20 satellite plants all over the country that can manufacture some 20,000 metric tons of feeds per hour. It is one of the 10 major commercial feed manufacturers in the country producing hogs, shrimp, fish, poultry and fighting cock feeds. BMEG also exports shrimp feeds to India.

The company has been expanding its marketing satellite divisions. Nava said BMEG was also open to possible tie-ups with foreign pharmaceutical groups that would allow it to venture into animal medicine and vaccination business.

Equitable remittance volume up 23%

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's third largest lender, posted a 23-percent growth in remittance volume in the first seven months of this year, nearly four times the industry rate, following efforts to reach more Filipinos abroad.

The bank's remittance network registered a healthy increase from year-ago levels outpacing industry growth rate of 6 percent to $4.2 billion, Equitable PCI Bank said in a statement.

Bucking worries that inflows would slacken because of the dampening effects of SARS and the Iraq war on deployment of overseas Filipino workers, the bank extended its Express Padala reach in Asia, Europe, Middle East and North America where OFWs were concentrated.

It opened more offices, acquired more shipping companies and signed up more tie-ups, agents and correspondent banks.

"Notwithstanding temporary market disruptions, Filipinos continue to maintain deployment overseas in large numbers and the market for remittance services remains robust," Richard So, Equitable PCI Bank first vice president and head of Express Padala service, said.

Elena R. Torrijos

Asiana to serve Seoul-Clark . . .

From page B3

earlier said the need for Asiana to service flights to and from Korea and Clark resulted from the significant increase in Korean tourist arrivals to the Philippines. He said there were about 26,000 Koreans who visited the country in 1996. The number grew to 250,000 this year, making Koreans the third biggest number of tourists to the Philippines.

Asiana Airlines was established in February 1998 by the Kumbo Group, and is considered as Korea's second flag carrier. The airline operates 65 modern aircraft that service more than 660 destinations in 72 airports in 125 countries, including Japan, China and the United States.

According to Bases Conversion and Development Authority president and chief executive officer Rufo Colayco, the entry of Asiana to Clark was an indication the area was attractive to business.

He denied reports that international logistics and distribution company Universal Parcel Service (UPS) was relocating its hub from Clark to another country due to alleged business problems it was encountering at Clark.

Quoting Luciano, Colayco reported that UPS was in fact expanding its operations in Clark by increasing its number of flights to and from the area. Luciano said UPS has increased its flights from three a day last year to nine a day this year, and that the company would still increase this to 12 beginning February next year.

"They may be increasing their operations in another country, but it does not necessarily mean they are scaling down their operations here," Colayco said.

He admitted, however, that Clark still needed to be further developed and made fully equipped to be at par with foreign airports.

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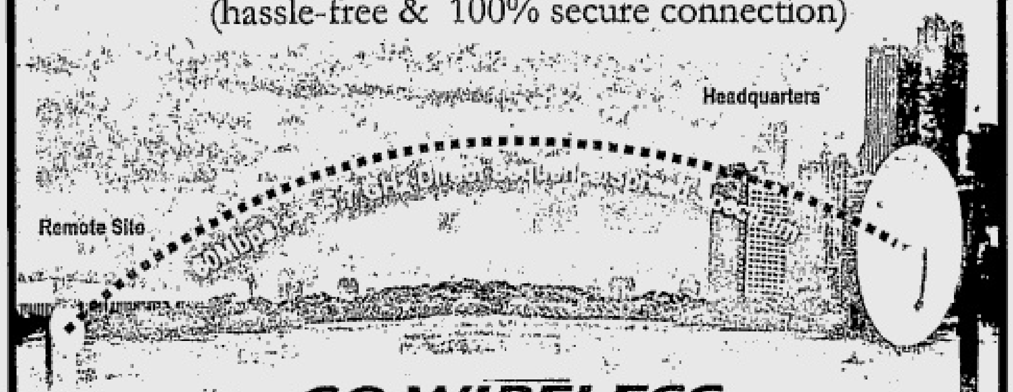

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PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS, INC.

celebrates "7TH ANESTHESIOLOGY WEEK"

OCTOBER 20-26, 2003

Theme: "Patient's Safety Always"

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++++++++++

The Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists through its President, Dr. Fidel C. Payawal, announces the celebration of the Anesthesiology Week on October 20-26, 2003. This year's theme is "Patient's Safety Always".

Several activities have been lined up during this week by the Organizing Committee headed by the Vice President, Dr. Amelia Manzano-Manzon.

One of these is the search for an interesting anesthesia case contest among the anesthesia residents-in-training all over the country. A legal aid forum will be held to discuss some issues regarding malpractice suits. Another important event will be the conferment of 47 new Diplomates of Anesthesiology. As stress relievers and also to promote camaraderie among the anesthesiologists a bowling tournament and badminton friendship game have been organized in cooperation with Patriot Pharmaceuticals and B-Braun Medical Supplies, respectively.

All anesthesiologists (residents and consultants) are enjoined to participate in the activities to be culminated by a Family Day on October 26, Sunday starting with a 9:00 a.m. mass at the Philippine Medical Association compound North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Anesthesiology Week

In declaring the third week of October each year as Anesthesiology Week, President Fidel V. Ramos then underscored the need to increase public awareness to the importance of safe anesthesia. Indeed, the skill and efforts of anesthesiologists help save lives, alleviate suffering and pain, and allay the fear and anxiety of many patients. They are the "unsung heroes" of the operating room.

For more than five decades now, the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc (PSA), has endeavored to uplift and maintain the standards of anesthesiology practice in the country. Since 1951, it has continued to promote specialization in this field and make available to more people the benefits derived from the services of anesthesiologists. More importantly, the PSA has protected the public against unethical and unqualified anesthesiologists.

In 1967, the PSA created the Philippine Board of Anesthesiology (PBA) as the sole certifying body of anesthesiology specialists. Today, there are 1,053 Diplomates of the Philippine Board of Anesthesiology (DPBA), and 48 accredited training programs in various hospitals and institutions all over the country. On Saturday, Oct 25, 2003 the PBA will be granting the Diplomate Titles to some 47 anesthesiologists on its 35th Conferment Ceremony.

The major role that anesthesiologists play in the field of medicine cannot be overstated. The advent of "painless labor" would not have been possible without the efforts of anesthesiologists. Today, they are stepping beyond the confines of the operating room. Anesthesiologists are increasingly getting themselves involved in ambulatory surgery and other procedures outside the operating room ("remote anesthesia"), participating actively in intensive care as integral members of the team; taking active part in trauma management, critical emergency treatment and in pain management, most specially in cases of chronic and cancer pain.

The state of the art of anesthesiology has made it possible for complicated and delicate surgical procedures to be accomplished successfully. Requiring optimum training and wisdom in judgment, it is a specialty that can directly benefit our countrymen in need of the anesthesiologist's talents for a variety of ailments and emergencies.

Schedule of Activities

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE
OCT 20 MONDAY	INDIVIDUAL HOSPITAL CELEBRATION	
OCT 21 TUESDAY	• PRESS CONFERENCE/ TV APPEARANCES • INTERESTING CASE • CONFERENCE	BAYANIHAN HALL OF UNILAB MANDALUYONG CITY 1:00 PM-5:00 PM
OCT 22 WEDNESDAY	BOWLING TOURNAMENT	POWERBOWL, POWER PLANT MALL, ROCKWELL MAKATI CITY 12:30 PM TO 6:00 PM
OCT 23 THURSDAY	LEGAL AID FORUM	DISCOVERY SUITES ORTIGAS CENTER PASIG CITY 6:00 PM
OCT 24	BADMINTON FRIENDSHIP GAME	SHUTTLE FLIGHT ROTC HUNTER ST. ARANETA AVENUE QUEZON CITY 6:00 PM TO 10:00 PM *BRING YOUR OWN BADMINTON ROCKETS
OCT 25	• VISIT TO A CHARITABLE INSTITUTION • PBA CONFERMENT CEREMONIES	• RECEPTION & STUDY CENTER FOR CHILDREN, BAGO BANTAY, QUEZON CITY • EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL
OCT 26 SUNDAY	FAMILY DAY • THANKSGIVING MASS • PARLOR GAMES • CAR RAVFLE PAPREMYO PRE-GRAND RAFFLE DRAW	PMA AUDITORIUM 9:00 AM 10:00 ONWARDS 2:00 PM

2003 Organizing Committee
Honorary Chairman
Fidel C. Payawal, MD, DPBA
Overall Chairperson
Amelia M. Manzon, MD, DPBA

Working Committee:
Press Conference/ Publication
Dr. Ma. Lourdes Marquez
Dr. Donald Dominguez
Interesting Case Conference
Dr. Emelita Umali
Bowling Tournament
Dr. Donald Dominguez
Legal Aid Forum
Dr. Eleanor Guray
Badminton Friendship Game
Dr. Richard Escolar
Charity Day
Dr. Eleanor Guray
Family Day
Dr. Edwin John Cruz
Dr. Joy Luat-Inclong
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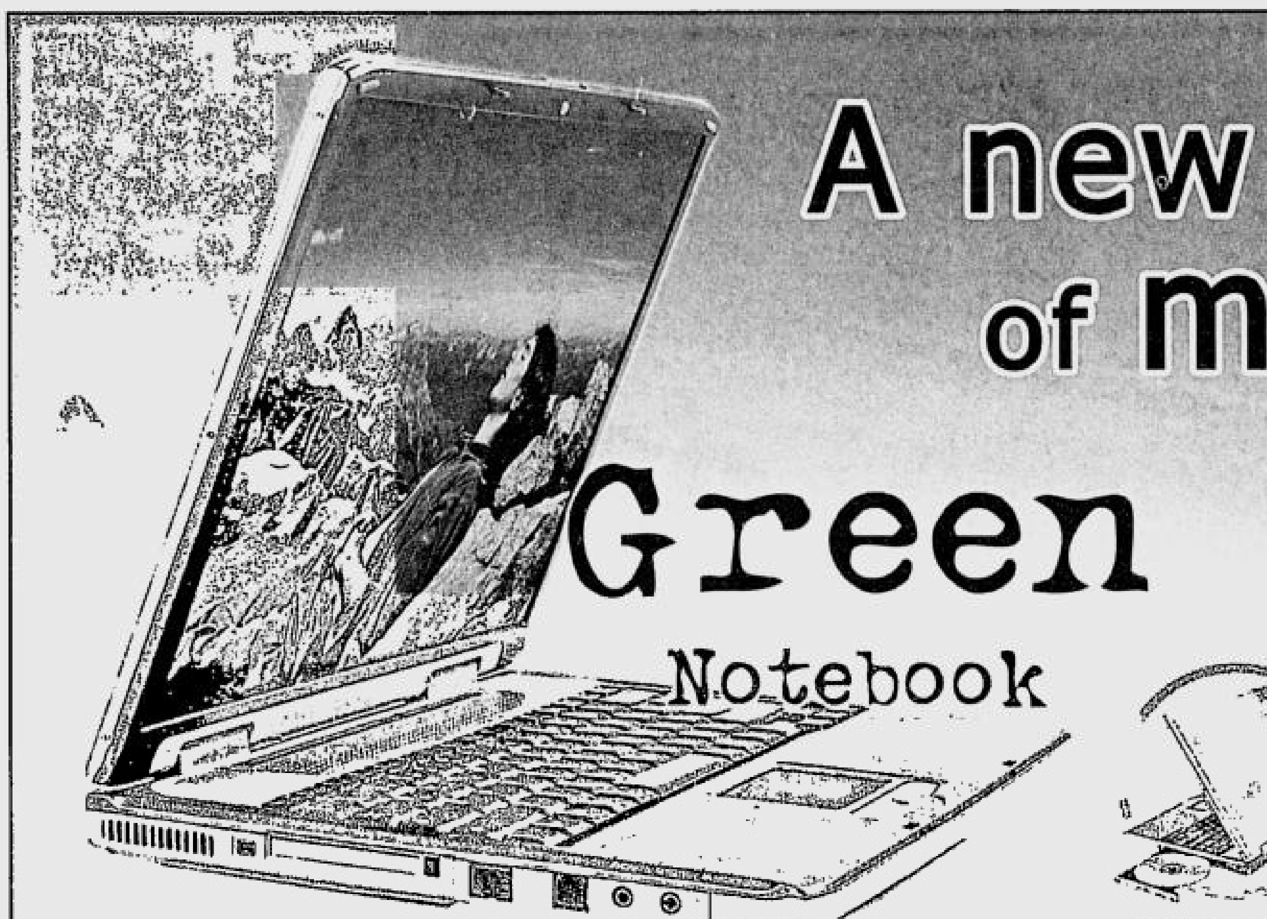

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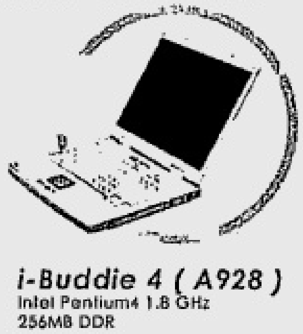

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European firm eyes tie-up with FMC

By Michelle V. Remo

A EUROPEAN automotive manufacturer has expressed plans to enter into a joint venture with debt-ridden Francisco Motor Corp. (FMC).

The plan was seen to pave the way for the foreign firm's entry into the Philippine automotive market and the rescue of Filipino-owned FMC from its financial difficulties.

In a document submitted to the Regional Trial Court, FMC's rehabilitation receiver Carlito de Jesus said the vehicle manufacturers were discussing a possible long-term collaboration involving the distribution of Iveco vehicles in the country.

De Jesus said that Iveco wanted FMC to distribute its defense and military vehicles, pick-up trucks and armored cars in the Philippines.

The new business would go a long way in helping FMC shore up enough cash to pay off around P1.7 billion in debt.

De Jesus added that Sumitomo Corp. of Japan, Iveco's financial partner, was willing to provide FMC with the funds needed to start the distribution of Iveco products.

FMC is hard pressed to venture into new business projects after it lost the right to assemble and manufacture Mazda pick-up trucks, which used to generate most of its revenue.

Ford Motor Co., which is a 30 percent shareholder of Mazda, took over the assembly and distribution of Mazda from FMC after it set up office in the Philippines in the late 1990s.

Aside from the possible tie-up with Iveco, FMC also plans to export jeepneys to Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone in Africa. Francisco said Papua New Guinea planned to import at least 4,000 units of jeepneys.

De Jesus also reported that FMC has imported four sample units of Changan utility vehicles from China for test marketing in the Philippines.

FMC said the Changan engines could be used in the production of the A250D Anfra utility vehicles, which FMC supplies to private companies such as the Manila Electric Co., Globe Telecom and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

GOINGS-ON

Air Link's 20th year

AIR Link International Aviation, the country's premier aviation school, held a double celebration as it marked its 20th year of service to the community and the day it became a full-fledged college.

Air Link boasts of an average of 1,500 students students taking up various courses and degree programs in the school's 8,000- square-meter campus at the General Aviation Complex along the Domestic Road.

Aside from a building that houses its administrative offices and classrooms, the institution has its own hangar, 27 aircraft and a school resort, which serves as its off-campus flight training center.

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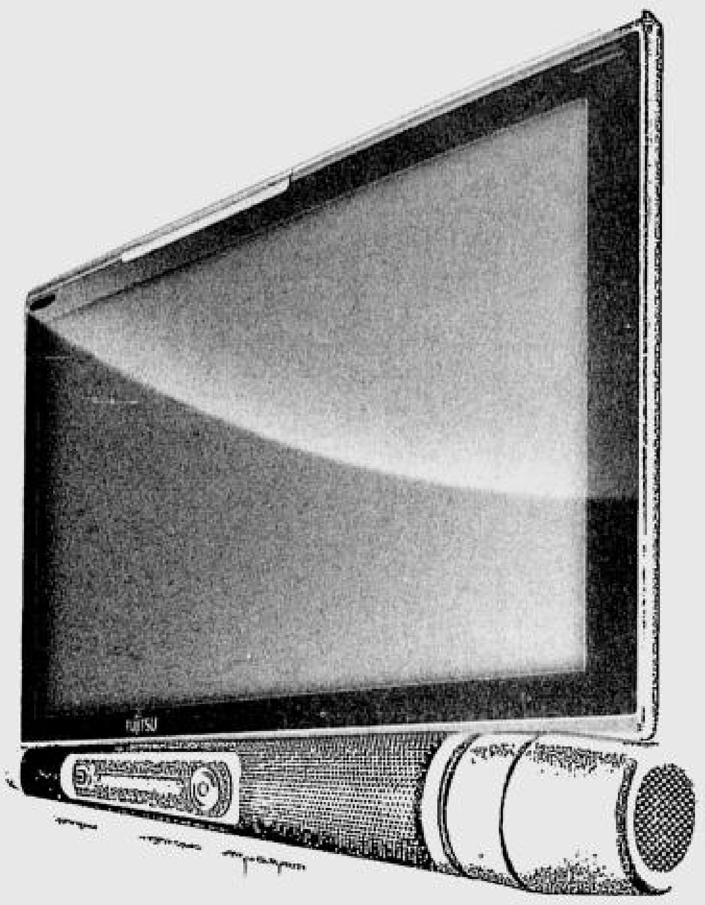

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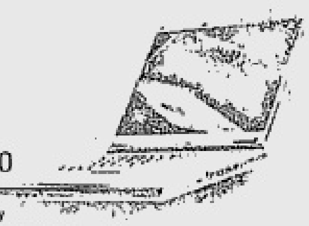

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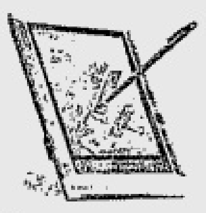

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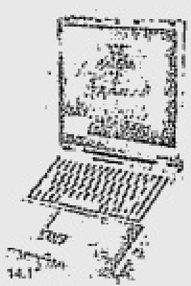

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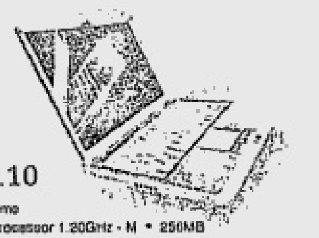

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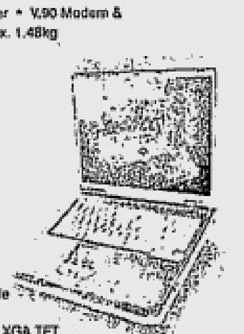

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ADB approves energy grant

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ASIAN Development Bank has approved a technical assistance grant worth $450,000 (about P24 million) aimed at putting new and renewable energy (NRE) projects back on track.

The Manila-based lender said in a statement that the grant would be used to find out why one of four NRE projects in the country was "less than successful" and to design remedies to address project failures.

The government would contribute a counterpart fund of $200,000 or about P11 million toward the effort, which would culminate in two or three demonstration projects.

The ADB noted that from 1999 to 2001, about 1,000 barangays were energized using NRE technologies including solar, micro-hydro and hybrid systems.

By end-2001, the country had 5,120 solar and 380 wind installations.

Ayala units sell despite glut

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE UPSCALE residential real estate market is still in a slump, but Ayala Land Inc. continues to make a sale.

"ALI is selling well despite the glut. We even exceeded our forecast prices for residential buildings, which (generally) have not really been going up because of the glut," company senior vice president for residential buildings Angie Lacson said in a recent press briefing.

She disclosed, for instance, that ALI's One Roxas Triangle at the Makati central business district was now 70 percent sold out and 67 percent occupied.

"There has been an upward adjustment in (selling) prices by 8 percent since One Roxas Triangle was launched in 1996," Lacson said.

One Roxas Triangle has 182 three-bedroom units with an average size of 308 square meters priced between P33 million and P39 million.

"The high-end market is still flat but it is just a matter of identifying what kind of projects people want. People now want to live near their place of work, to have more time with the family instead of spending more time on the road," she said.

"There are also other projects for those who want to live outside Manila. We have different projects to address their needs and wants. Westgrove, for instance, is selling in Silang, Cavite," she added.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

PLDT employee's paper earns spot in int'l confab

A PLDT employee became the first Filipino technology management practitioner to present a paper recently in Nancy, France, during the Annual International Conference of the International Association for the Management of Technology (Iamot), the world's largest organization of management of technology comprised of professors, professionals, and practitioners worldwide.

Edmund R. Pike, product manager of PLDT, presented his ideas in a paper entitled "Laying Down the Foundations of Technology Management in the Philippines," which he submitted for the perusal and screening of the world's renowned experts in technology management.

The paper was written initially as a white paper to encourage PLDT business solutions, the University of the Philippines, and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and other Filipino ICT stakeholders to take part in an academic, governmental, and cross-industry collaboration effort that will study the current status and future technology prospects of the country, and identify the barriers as well as drivers of industry growth.

The paper also cited the disadvantages and inadequacies of using existing knowledge sources in developing and using technology to stimulate business activity and help grow the economy.

"Instead of seeking the best ideas which can be translated into new technological breakthroughs, the typical Philippine firm has adapted the 'me too' attitude, content with being mere copycats of its Western counterparts," he said in his paper.

Utilizing technology management models, Pike proposed that technology management approaches in other countries be tested with the purpose of identifying, diffusing, assimilating the lessons that can be learned.

Pike also discussed in the paper the importance of embedding technology strategy and technology management as part of each firm's corpprate strategy with the academe playing a vital role.

Aside from that, Pike espoused an alliance between the private sector, academe, and the government in conducting research and development projects to complement and enhance traditional knowledge sources such as research firms, suppliers, and the Internet.

As a result of this paper, the collaboration effort has gained momentum with the support of professors and students of three important entities of the University of the Philippines-the Technology Management Center, the Electronics and Electrical Engineering Department, the College of Science-plus the DOST agreeing to do collaborative R&D in PLDT's InnoLab.

PLDT InnoLab, an abbreviation for Innovation Laboratory and Learning Center is located in Mandaluyong City. Joint research and development projects involving, but not limited to, rural telecommunications, Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6), mobile telecommunications, broadband networking, toll on-line billing system, and wireless communications will be conducted there by PLDT, UP, and DOST.

Inspired by the PLDT-UP-DOST collaboration efforts, and using the premise of the paper as the main basis, Pike also managed to form an organization for the country's technology management practitioners called the Technology Management Society of the Philippines (TMSP).

Technology industry leaders, leading university professors, ICT proponents and locators, service aggregators/providers, consumers, and IT faculty members have agreed to discuss and solve industry specific concerns in the Philippines and to share their learned insights through this organization.

Eight o'clock
P1 Million
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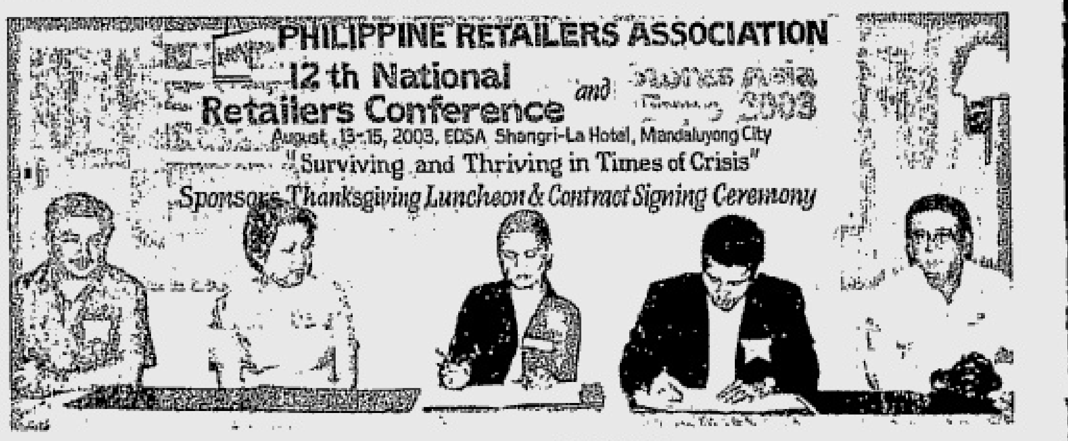
EIGHT O'CLOCK PROMO WINNERS
Eight O'Clock recently presented some of the winners of its grand Hotline to Millions promo with GMA 7's noontime variety show 'Eat Bulaga', namely Lyn Kaibigan of Angeles City, Pampanga (2nd from left), Cristina Vicario of Diliman, Quezon City (4th from left) and Pamela Saturno of Dasmarinas, Cavite (5th from left) who took home the second prize of P100,000 each, and Julio Raquel of Pasay City (left) and Elvira Yambao of Hagonoy, Bulacan (center) who each won the third prize of P50,000. Also shown are The Coca-Cola Export Corp (TCCEC) non-carbonated beverages unit executives (standing, from left) Abby Dizon, Luis Bariuan, and Weena Marasigan (right), with promo partners from Philippine Beverage Partners Inc (Philbev) Ronnie Plaza, Rodel Castelo, Dan Acuna and Joey Baterina. Eight O'Clock is a refreshing family beverage packed with vitamins. Other participating brands in the promo are Ponkana and Ice Cold-Mix.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MONTANARA SPONSORS RETAILERS CONFAB
Montanara was the Kit Bag sponsor of the 12th National Retailers Conference and Stores Asia 2003 Expo (12th NRCE) held recently at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City and organized by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA). Present during the signing are Stores Asia co-chair Mars C. Chua, PRA vice president Vida T. Estrella, Montanara administrative officer 1 Yolina O. Felicio, PRA president Bienvenido 'Donnie' Tantoco III and Stores Asia Expo co-chair Jorge T. Mendiola.

Antipolo mayor presidential awardee in literacy awards

ANTIPOLO CITY once again bagged the top awards in the recently concluded National Literacy Conference and Awards held at Leyte Park Resort and Hotel, Tacloban City Sept. 3 to 5.

City Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan was also awarded by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the Most Outstanding City Mayor and Local Government Unit for the second consecutive year. The city has been in the rosters of the literacy awardees for the third year in a row as the city was awarded 1st runner-up in 2001. It has also achieved Hall of Fame status in the regional level.

The Literacy Awards of the National Literacy Coordinating Council was held in celebration of the annual Literacy Week. This year's theme "Functional Literacy: A Tool for Poverty Alleviation and National Solidarity Towards a Strong Republic" is designed to alleviate poverty by identifying grassroots initiatives that address multi-cultural diversity that affects learning and knowledge acquisition.

Antipolo's literacy campaign this year focused on sustaining the ongoing projects of the city and strengthening the literacy campaign in the barangay level. For 2003, the city allocated P136,997,618 as special education fund. From this amount, P710,000 was allotted for Non-Formal Education honoraria alone.

Priority projects this year include the non-formal education of the Dumagat community and the disadvantaged groups consisting of the out-of-school youth, senior citizens, street children, Borique Boys and the Project Bagong Laya.

Other projects were also launched for the benefit of sectoral communities, including the Sa Lansangan Gumugulong, Kaakibat sa Pagsulong ng Lungsod of the tricycle drivers; Kapatiran; Pag-asa sa Likod ng Rehas; Paglitao, Zone 7 and Dalig Literacy Classes and the Special People Inc.

Sustainable literacy programs designed to encourage readership to residents and students in the city include the establishment of the City Library, Community Reading Centers and the Mobile Library.

The National Literacy Conference was participated in by the Department of Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, DepEd Usec. And LCC Chair Ramon Bacani, PIA Director General Renato Velasco Ph.D., Former Sen. Santanina Rasul, Leyte Rep. Ted Failon, Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo Romualdez and other top DepEd officials.

This year, Antipolo boasts a 98.9-percent literacy rate and aims to sustain further the literacy growth through its various projects. The ultimate growth of the local government is to adequately equip its constituency with knowledge and skills through formal, nonformal and continuing education for people empowerment and self-sufficiency in the coming years.

ProductFILES

GOLD LEAF LAUNCHES 2 PRODUCTS
GOLD Leaf, the brand of choice among Filipino tea drinkers, launched two new products at the World's Food Expo (3 International Exposition on Worldwide Food and Beverages) held recently at the World Trade Center. These are Pure Jasmine, under its green tea selections, and Ampalaya Herbal Infusion under its herbal tea selections. Gold Leaf also featured other products at the Expo such as the oriental teas (Green Tea, Jasmine, Oolong, Lychee, and Sencha Green Tea, Frui-Teas and specialty blend of teas (Strawberry, Mint and Orange), and its caffeine-free Chamomile and Dandelion herbal infusions. Shown is the Gold Leaf booth at Wofex showcasing the new products, with a representative conducting free sampling to customers. Gold Leaf products are available at leading supermarkets and groceries in Metro Manila. For inquiries, call 716-5546.

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AKARI RECEIVES AWARD
Despite being a neophyte in the lighting industry, Akari was named by the National Consumer Affairs Foundation and the People's Choice Awards committee as Top Innovative Products Brand as recognition for exemplary excellence and quality, based on opinion surveys and evaluation benefiting Filipino consumers. Awarding ceremonies were held July 19 at the UP Theater in Diliman. Carlson Trading president and chair Carlos Tiu.

BIGGER NETWORK FOR RAPIDÉ
With a reputation built on top-quality service, best value and expertise on braking and suspension systems, car aircon and auto maintenance systems as well as tires and batteries, Rapidé Auto Service Center, the largest automotive service chain in the country gets bigger and better with another network partner. Shown during the signing ceremony are (from left) Joel Meneses, Rapidé Auto Service Center franchise and business development manager, Leni and Rex de Ramos (franchisee), and Rene Limcaoco, Golden Point Auto Care Inc managing director.

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B-MEG SUPPORTS AGRILINK
San Miguel Foods Inc-Feeds Business, with its lead brand B-Meg, continues to support the country's most prestigious international agricultural trade fair, Agrilink, which ran from Oct. 16 to 18 at the Philippine World Trade Center. Present during the contract signing for SMFI's major sponsorship of Agrilink 2003 were (from left) SMFI Feeds VP and GM George Nava, SMFI Feeds AVP and national sales and marketing manager Bong Alejo, and Agrilink 2003 project director Lino Perez.

3 bazaars to spice up your holidays

GIVEN the poor economic condition the country is in and the fast-approaching holiday season just around the corner, not a few individuals or groups are hopping on the enterprise bandwagon, hopeful to scrape together a few quick bucks for the traditional gift-giving and holiday shopping that ushers in the most anticipated season of the year.

Many employees and students may have taken to themselves and thought of ways to strengthen their earning power for the holidays by joining the Noel Christmas Bazaars Series.

Individuals and groups have discovered the perfect venue to showcase their creativity and flair for setting the trend in the Noel Discovery Bazaar at the Manila Polo Club on Oct. 25 and 26 and Nov. 29 and 30, and the Christmas Shop Expo 2003 at the World Trade Center from Nov. 21 to 23.

Supported by the GMA Network, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Foreign Post, the Noel Bazaars Series boasts a lineup of products that have undergone thorough screening to ensure that even the most hard-to-please bazaar-goers don't leave empty-handed. For inquiries, call Cut Unlimited Inc at 687-0654, 687-7523, fax 687-0604, or e-mail cut@pacific.net.ph.

Clips

Seafarer forum on health, safety

BECAUSE of the growing number of sickness, injuries, accidents and deaths among Filipino seafarers, the International Seafarers Action Center (ISAC) Philippines Foundation Inc will hold its sixth of a series of roundtable discussions on Oct. 24, 1 p.m. at the ISAC Conference Hall, Suite 601 Fil-Garcia Tower corner Mayaman Street, Kalayaan Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Topic for discussion this month is "Occupational health and safety on-board vessels." Invited speakers and panelists are Diane Restall of the ILO Maritime Department, Administrator Oscar Sevilla of the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), Elmor D. Juridico of the Employees Compensation Commission (ECC) and engineers Jose Batino and Nelia Grandilyos from the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC). Interested parties can call Capt. Anthony Dan Ogbinar at 920-7433, 924-0526, fax 920-7476. Admission is free.

Shell's cash promo

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp launched a national sales promotion dubbed Cash na, may Hakot Pa as a treat to customers who have been patronizing Shell products and services through the years. To join, a customer needs to purchase P300 worth of Shell products and services to get one peel off coupon. Receipts may be any combination of items (fuels, lubes, services, shop items). Shell is giving away thousands of instant prizes and a chance to win cash prizes in the second raffle draw on Oct. 23 at Shell House, Makati. 18 first prize winners each get P50,000 worth of groceries at a designated SM Supermarket, in addition to P50,000 cash prize. 54 2nd prize winners each get P40,000 cash, and 54 3rd prize winners get P20,000 cash. Promo period is until Oct. 22.

SRNH-RRTS confab slated

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), in partnership with the Sustainable Logistics Development Program (SLDP) of the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Economic Governance Technical Assistance (Egta) Program of USAId, is holding a conference on the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH and the Roll-On Roll-Off Terminal System (RRTS) on Oct. 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental Manila. The conference presents the general picture of the SRNH-RRTS framework and mechanism, as well as the business opportunities the SRNH-RRTS offers to potential players throughout the country, as well as the credit facility offered by SLDP of DBP. Keynote speaker is Sec. Romulo L. Neri of the Neda. For more inquiries, call the PCCI secretariat at 844-5713 local 120 and look for Mesdames Marimar Montemayor or Leonor Gamez.

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Let's take care of Intramuros and let's take care of our tourists. Tourism means jobs and opportunities.

13 October, Monday

1 AM INGRESS

14 October, Tuesday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
2 pm Cultural Show by SWU Arts Corps – (Clamshell)
4 pm Lecture on "How to Make a Festival" – (Clamshell)
5 pm Sinulog by Tribu Kandaya, Buan Bantayan – (Plaza San Ignacio)

15 October, Wednesday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
11 am Cultural Show by SWU Arts Corps – (Clamshell)
12 nn Opening of the Regional Food Festival with Strolling Performers by San Diego and ARTMOVS CEBU – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
3 pm Bodbod making with Sayawit – (Clamshell)
3 pm On The Spot Painting – (Nipa Hut)
6 pm Sinulog Festival – (Clamshell)
8 pm Transparency Band (Tanjay) – (Clamshell)

16 October, Thursday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
11 am Cultural Show by SWU Arts Corps – (Clamshell)
11 am Regional Food Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
CNU-Diwa Sugbu – (Century Park Hotel)
3 pm Bodbod Making with Sayawit – (Clamshell)
4 pm Lecture on "How to Make a Festival" – (Clamshell)
6 pm Sinulog Festival – (Clamshell)
7 pm Annie Chen's Works of Arts Fashion Show
ARTMOVS Cebu – (Century Park Hotel)

17 October, Friday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
11 am Cultural Show by SWU Arts Corps – (Clamshell)
11 am Regional Food Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
ARTMOVS Cebu – (Century Park Hotel)
GRAND OPENING
4 pm PAG-ABLI (Opening of the Clamshell-Travel Mart / Walk Through)
SAYAW SA DALAN (Street Dancing at Sta. Lucia & Anda Streets)
PASUNDAYAG – (Plaza San Ignacio)

- Mantawi
- Kabkaban
- Soili
- Tawo-Tawo
- Sinulog
- Sinulog
- Sandugo
- Sipong
- Kadaugan sa Mactan

TOAST
MERIENDA CENA – (San Ignacio Ruins)
CNU-Diwa Sugbu – (Clamshell)

18 October, Saturday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
11 am Regional Food Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
ARTMOVS Cebu – (Century Park Hotel)
8 pm Transparency Band of Tanjay – (Century Park Hotel)
CEBU DAY
VENUE: Streets in Intramuros (STREET DANCING)
10 am Kabkaban Festival
11 am Sinulog by Tribu Kandaya
[illegible]
3 pm Kabkaban Festival
4 pm Sinulog by Tribu Kandaya
5 pm Mantawi Festival
VENUE: CLAMSHELL
10 am CNU-Diwa Sugbo & Choral
11 am USC Dance Troupe
12 nn Mandaue School of Arts
1 pm SWU Arts Corps
2 pm Dance Sports Kids, Kruggasaus Dancers
Zenkanvig Dance & UC Theater Workshop Co.
3 pm CNU Diwa Sugbo & Choral
4 pm USC Dance Troupe
5 pm San Diego Dance Troupe
6 pm CNU Diwa Sugbo & Choral
7 pm SWU Arts Corps
8 pm CNU Diwa Sugbo & Choral
VENUE: PLAZA SAN IGNACIO
10 am "SING LIVE – In Intramuros –
1-5 pm Cebu Festival take turn in performing at the Plaza
2 pm "CHIKAHAY TA" Live in Intramuros
7 pm THE BEST OF CEBU

19 October, Sunday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
NEGROS ORIENTAL DAY
10 am DEMO-Bodbod Making of Tanjay
Weaving Abaca Pinukpok of Dauin – (Nipa Hut)
11 am Regional Food Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
ARTMOVS Cebu – (Century Park Hotel)
1 pm Pamana Inc. Chorale Ensemble – (Clamshell)
2 pm Bais City Rondalla & Bais City Dance Drama
Salamin sa Kimbohi – (Clamshell)
3 pm Tanjay City Sayawit & Sinulog Festival – (Clamshell)
4 pm Ayungon Sayawit Champion – (Clamshell)
Buglasan Street Dance Champion "Tawo-Tawo" Festival of Bayawan City – (Anda & Sta. Lucia Streets)
5 pm Dumaguete Performers – collaboration of the Dumaguete City Universities & Colleges in Song, Dance & Drama. SU Cuerdas & Pamana Inc. – (Plaza San Ignacio)
6 pm Silliman Concert Band – (Clamshell)
7 pm Fashion Show of indigenous materials from Dauin & other parts of Negros Oriental. A collaboration of creations of Negros Oriental Couturiers with dance numbers from the NEV Dance Studio – (Plaza San Ignacio)
8 pm Ballroom Dancing with Tanjay Transparency Band – (Plaza San Ignacio)

20 October, Monday

11 am Regional Food Festival with Mantawi Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
ARTMOVS Cebu – (Century Park Hotel)
12 nn CNU-Diwa Sugbu & Fashion Show by Joy Bernaldez – (Century Park Hotel)
6 pm USC Dance Troupe & SWU Arts Corps – (Century Park Hotel)
MORNING CLEAN UP – (Clamshell)
3 pm Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
3 pm Bodbod Making with Sayawit – (Clamshell)
3 pm On The Spot Painting – (Nipa Hut)
4 pm Cultural Show by SWU Arts Corps – (Clamshell)
5 pm CNU-Diwa Sugbu – (Clamshell)
5 pm Sipong Festival – (Anda & Sta. Lucia Streets)
6 pm USC Dance Troupe – (Clamshell)
7 pm Modern Cebu – (Clamshell)
[illegible]

21 October, Tuesday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market (Clamshell)
10 am CNU-Diwa Sugbu – (Clamshell)
11 am Cultural Show by SWU Arts Corps – (Clamshell)
11 am Regional Food Festival Century Park Hotel – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
ARTMOVS Cebu – (Century Park Hotel)
3 pm Bodbod Making with Sayawit – (Clamshell)
4 pm Lecture on "How to Make a Festival" – (Clamshell)
5 pm CNU-Diwa Sugbu – (Clamshell)
5 pm Sinulog Festival – (Anda & Sta. Lucia Streets)
7 pm Cultural Show by SWU Arts Corps – (Clamshell)

22 October, Wednesday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
10 am CNU-Diwa Sugbu – (Clamshell)
11 am Cultural Show by SWU Arts Corps – (Clamshell)
11 am Regional Food Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
ARTMOVS Cebu – (Century Park Hotel)
3 pm Bodbod Making with Sayawit – (Clamshell)
3 pm On The Spot Painting – (Nipa Hut)
4 pm "Central Visayas Goes Culinary" Fun Showcase – (Clamshell)
5 pm CNU-Diwa Sugbu – (Clamshell)
5 pm Sinulog Festival – (Anda & Sta. Lucia Streets)
8 pm Transparency Band (Tanjay) – (Plaza San Ignacio)
9 pm Philharmonic Orchestra & San Miguel Chorale with Ryan Cayabyab – (Baluarte Plano Loreto de Sta. Isabel)

23 October, Thursday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
10 am CNU-Diwa Sugbu – (Clamshell)
11 am Cultural Show by SWU Arts Corps – (Clamshell)
11 am Regional Food Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
ARTMOVS CEBU – (Century Park Hotel)
3 pm Bodbod Making with Sayawit – (Clamshell)
4 pm Lecture on "How to Make a Festival" – (Clamshell)
5 pm Sinulog Festival – (Anda & Sta. Lucia Streets)
6 pm Diwanag Dance Troupe of Holy Name University – (Century Park Hotel)
7 pm Transparency Band (Tanjay) – (Plaza San Ignacio)

24 October, Friday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
10:30 am Cebu Performing Arts Co. featuring USJR – (Clamshell)
11am Regional Food Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
ARTMOVS Cebu – (Century Park Hotel)
BOHOL DAY

25 October, Saturday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
11 am Regional Food Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
12 nn Cebu Performing Arts Co. featuring USJR – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
3 pm Bodbod Making with Sayawit – (Clamshell)
4 pm Cebu Performing Arts Co. featuring USJR – (Clamshell)
6 pm San Miguel Fiesta Caravan – (Plaza San Ignacio)
7 pm Cebu Performing Arts Co. featuring USJR – (Century Park Hotel)
TANJAY CITY DAY

26 October, Sunday

[illegible]

Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
SIQUIJOR DAY
10:30 am Sirili Festival – (Clamshell)
10 am Ceramics Making Binakol Weaving/Bracelet Making with Healing Medicine/Photo Making – (Nipa Hut)
1 pm Rondalla Ensemble – (Clamshell)
2 pm Healing Practices of Siquijor "Bolo-Bolo" – (Clamshell)
4 pm Turtle Making – (Nipa Hut)
5 pm Siquijor Cultural Show (Songs & Dances with Siquijor's Best) – (Clamshell)
10 pm CONCERT featuring "Island Melody Band" – (Plaza San Ignacio)

27 October, Monday

11 am Regional Food Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
MORNING CLEAN UP – (Clamshell)
3 pm Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
3 pm Bodbod Making with Sayawit – (Clamshell)
3 pm On The Spot Painting – (Nipa Hut)
4 pm Diwanag Dance Troupe of Bohol – (Clamshell)
5 pm Cebu Performing Arts Co. featuring USJR – (Clamshell)
6 pm Bohol Artists – (Clamshell)

28 October, Tuesday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
10:30 am Cebu Performing Arts Co. featuring USJR – (Clamshell)
11 am Regional Food Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
3 pm Bodbod Making with Sayawit – (Clamshell)
4 pm Bohol Performers – (Clamshell)
5 pm Cebu Performing Arts Co. featuring USJR – (Clamshell)
6 pm Sinulog Festival – (Clamshell)

29 October, Wednesday

10 am Regional Travel Mart and Cultural Market – (Clamshell)
10:30 am Bohol Performing Group – (Clamshell)
11 am Regional Food Festival – (Century Park Hotel)
Pacific Traders Furniture Showcase – (Century Park Hotel)
3 pm Bodbod Making with Sayawit – (Clamshell)
3 pm On The Spot Painting – (Nipa Hut)
4 pm CLOSING CEREMONIES – (Plaza San Ignacio)
PASUNDAYAG 1 – Dimiao's Children Rondalla
PASIUNA – "WOW" Philippines by the Cebu Performing Arts Co. featuring USJR
PASUNDAYAG 2
- Cebu Performing Arts Co. featuring USJR
- Diwanag Dance Troupe of Holy Name University (Bohol)
- Sayawit
- Siquijor Artists
- Negros Oriental Artists

FINALE – USJR with Manila Artists
COCKTAILS at the San Ignacio Ruins
FIREWORKS DISPLAY

30 October, Thursday

10 pm Start to EGRESS

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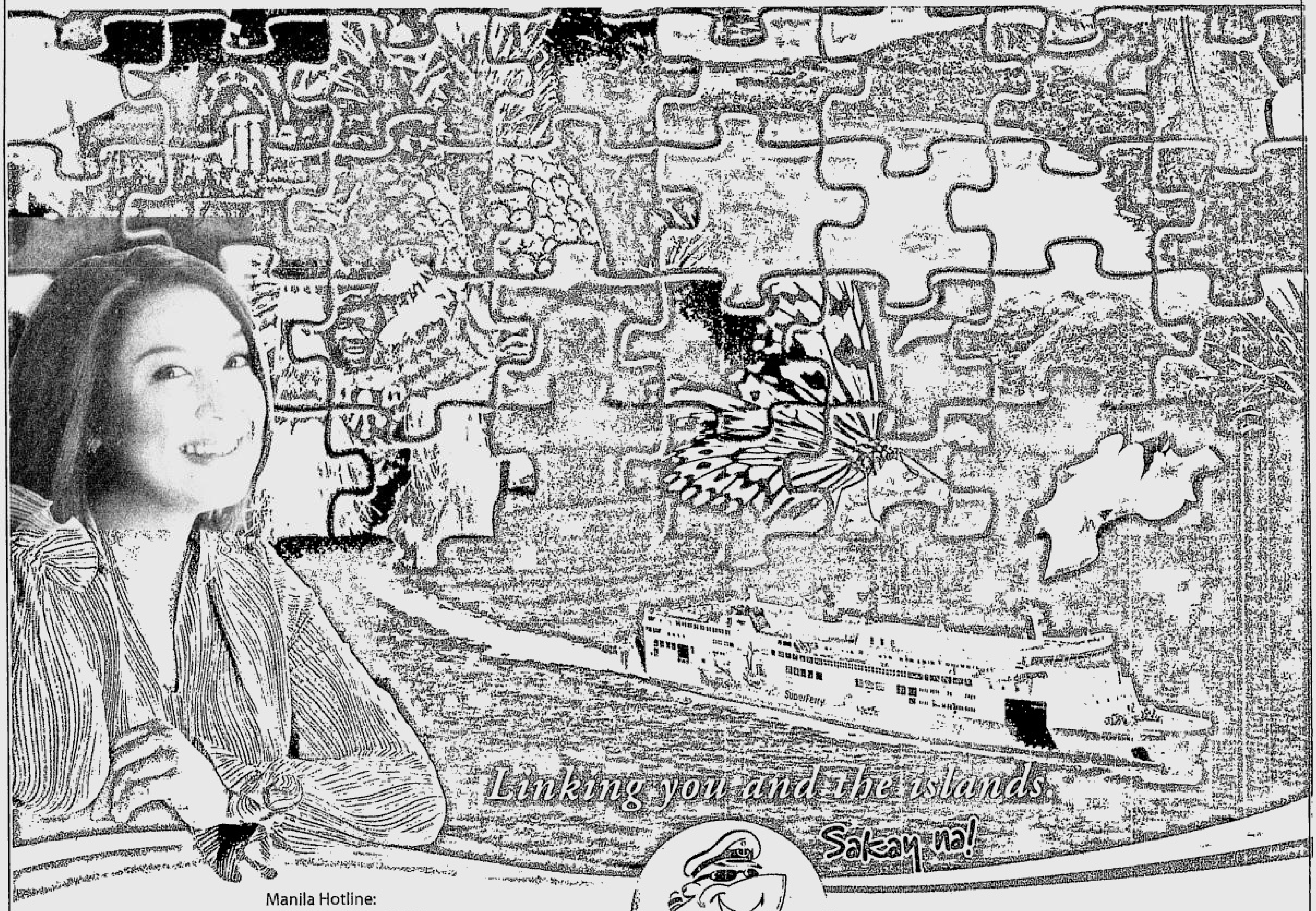
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Pandacan Quirino Ave. 4631 sqm w/office bldg. Rent P120/sqm/mo;
Sta. Cruz Oroquieta 230 sqm nr. SM San Lazaro Rent P25,000/mo.
MAKATI
Legaspi Village Salcedo
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Rada Multi-storey Office Bldg. Lot 919 sqm,
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Parking 1
Rent P45,000/mo;
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Sale P7.5M;
Galleria de Magallanes Lapu-lapu
3BDR/TB, Parking 2 Sale P9M;
Salcedo Village Sedeño
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Ayala Ave office condo
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Britanny Sale P12M;
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2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MONICO G. ALBANO was extra-judicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. #796, Page #160, Book #6, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Jesus C. Apelado Jr. of QC (PDI-Oct. 13, 20 & 27, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late HIROO MURAKAMI who died on May 7, 2003 in Paranaque City has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on September 5, 2003 under Doc. No. 469; Page No. 94; Book No. 81; Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Jose L. Sta. Ana of Marikina City.
PDI-Oct. 6,13 & 20, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ARSENIO G. MACATANGAY and Late MAXIMA DAYANG-HIRANG was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as of Oct. 16, 2003 under Doc. No. 370; Page No. 75; Book No. 4; Series of 2003 before notary public Dolorsindo I. Poner (PDI-Oct. 20, 27 & Nov. 3, 2003)

PERSONAL

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT FROM: GEMMA SANTOS & FAMILY

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ENGR. EULALIO CARPIO DIAZ, JR.

Died peacefully on October 19, 2003 at the age of 74.

His loving children **Drs. Marichu** and husband **Geoffrey Battad, Atty. Eulalio "Galland" Diaz III** and wife **Josephine**; grandchildren **Ma. Giselle Carla, Geoanne Christi, Van Euldem, Geoffrey Mari, Trecia, Martin** and **Carmela**; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel B, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 21, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park Marikina after 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Judge Jose S. Sañez, Ret.

of Regional Trial Court; Ligao City, Albay

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 17, 2003 at the age of 70.

He is survived by his loving wife- **Lourdes Tanopo**; children and in-laws **Jose Jr. & Liz; Mark & Annalene; Caloy; BL & Bengil; Vim, & Bino**; grandchildren: **Justine, Kiel, Kendrik, Rikka, Isabela, Chans** and **Ricco**; brother-**Antonio**, sister-**Gloria Rellorosa** and families. Prayers for the eternal repose of his soul is requested by relatives and friends.

His remains lie in state at Chapel-K, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will follow on October 22, 2003, Wednesday at 1:00 in the afternoon.

IN LOVING MEMORY

on the 10th Death Anniversary of

REMIGIO M. LILLES

Masses will be offered on the following churches
on Monday, October 20, 2003:

Santuario de San Antonio Parish – 6:15 AM - 7:30 AM
12:15 NN - 6:00 PM
Colegio de San Agustin D.V. – 6:45 AM
St. James, Ayala Alabang – 6:20 PM
Christ the King, Green Meadows – 6:00 AM & 7:00 PM
St. Paul Apostle, Quezon City – 7:00 AM & 6:00 PM

His family **Lita, Cindy & Jim Maceda, Robert & Cecile, Isabel, Ayrton, Sophia & Amaya, Tony & Marlyn, Maia & Miela,** and **Patricia Lilles,** request relatives and friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

> **"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."**
> 2 Corinthians 5:8

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

AMELIA ESPINOSA JIAO

of Sikatuna Village, Q.C. and Tarlac City

Passed away peacefully on 18 October 2003 at the age of 72.

Mamang is survived by her children Bong & Donna, Chic & Julie, Sylvia & Philip, Julius & Linda, Lito & Nell; grandchildren Joey, Jason, Joe Mari & JJ, Jesica & Paul, Kristoff, Nikki, Pia, Therese, Josephine, Samuel & Bianca, Don & Julie Anne; sisters, in-laws; other relatives and friends.

Mamang's body lies in state at Funeraria Nacional, Araneta Ave. between Aurora Blvd. & E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, 25 October 2003 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Agriculture
National Irrigation Administration
(Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig)
CASECNAN MULTIPURPOSE IRRIGATION AND POWER PROJECT
OFFICE ADDRESS : CLSU Compound, Muñoz Science City, Philippines
TELEPHONE : (044) 456 0272
TELEFAX : (044) 456 0716

October 17, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID NO. CMIPP-L03-1

All PCAB accredited civil/mechanical works contractors with a project size classification of at least "Medium A" for Mechanical works, with owned operational fabrication shop and with company experience in similar steel gate fabrication and installation are invited to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed "Improvement of Sluice Steel Gates and Intake Steel Gates of Tayabo Diversion Dam and LTRIS Diversion Dam" in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija and Llanera, Nueva Ecija, respectively.

The Works, with a total approved budget of P3,281,500.00, and a contract duration of 148 calendar days will be funded from the loan proceeds of the project, and involve the following quantities:

TYPE	QUANTITY	
	TAYABO DAM	LTRIS DAM
Sluice Steel Gates, including lifting mechanism and guide frames	1 Assembly	1 Assembly
Intake Steel Gates, including lifting mechanism and guide frames	6 Assemblies	2 Assemblies

The minimum equipment required for the Works are as follows:

EQUIPMENT	UNITS
Crane with Telescopic Boom, 15 Tons min.	1**
Cargo Truck, 8 Tons min.	1**
1-Bagger Mixer	2*

* – Owned   ** – Owned or Leased

EQUIPMENT	UNITS
Welding Set/Oxy-Acetylene Set	2 Each *
Mechanical Tool Set	4 *
Portable Concrete Drill Set	4 *
Jackhammer	1 **

Eligibility application forms may be secured from the office of the BAC Secretariat on October 20-November 3, 2003 upon submission of a letter of intent signed by the Contractor himself, together with a copy of the Contractor's License, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00. Special Power of Attorneys or similar authorization papers presented will not be honored, except authorization thru Board Resolution in case of a Corporation. Deadline for submission of eligibility statement is on November 4, 2003.

Application for eligibility to bid will be evaluated on the basis of non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria with respect to legal, technical and financial requirements of the contract to be bid.

Eligible bidders may obtain the necessary bid forms, drawings and other tender documents from the BAC Secretariat on November 7-17, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00/set.

Pre-bidding conference will be held at the NIA-CMIPP Conference Room starting at 10:00 AM on November 19, 2003 to answer bidding-related queries.

Sealed bids in two envelopes will be received by the BAC Chairman on or before 10:00 AM of December 1, 2003 at the NIA-CMIPP Conference Room and will be opened publicly starting at 2:00 PM of the same date and venue.

NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids that failed to comply with any of the bidding requirements, and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER G. COLOMA
BAC Chairman

(PDI-October 20, 2003)

PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. 840 1625 or 893-6001 Loc. 1120
Fax No. (632) 840 1619
E-mail addresses: rbasallo@pnoc-ec.com.ph, infotech@pnoc-ec.com.ph or purch@pnoc-ec.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID
(RE-BIDDING)

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites eligible suppliers to submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of:

ONE (1) UNIT PRIMARY SERVER AND ITS ACCESSORIES
PR NO. IT 235 306 R1

Bid documents shall be available for issuance starting October 17, 2003, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Three Hundred (PhP 300.00).

For purposes of clarification, a pre-bidding conference will be conducted on October 24, 2003, 2:00 p.m., Manila time, at Bldg. I Conference Room of the above stated address.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount stipulated in the tender documents in the form acceptable to PNOC EC. Sealed technical and financial bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the PNOC EC Purchasing not later than October 31, 2003, 2:00 p.m., Manila time, at the above stated address. Late bids shall not be accepted. Public opening of the technical and financial bids shall follow thereafter. Only the bids of the technically complying bidders shall be opened.

The appoved budget for the project, which shall be sourced from Company funds, is PHP 1,760,000.00. Delivery of the above equipment to PNOC EC, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila shall be on or before December 5, 2003.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservices.net.

(Sgd.) RUFINO B. BOMASANG
President & CEO

(PDI--Oct. 20, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Department of Budget and Management (BAC-DBM) hereby invites G-EPS registered companies / contractors to a public bidding for provision of janitorial and security services for **FY 2004.**

The approved budgets for the contracts are **P5,286,280.40** for Janitorial Services and **P7,898,000.00** for Security Services.

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** to clarify and address the bidders' questions on the Bid Documents that will be held on **November 4, 2003, Tuesday, at 9:00 A.M. for Janitorial Services and 1:00 P.M. for Security Services,** both at the AS Conference Room, G/F Mabini Hall, Malacañang, Manila.

Bid documents may be obtained starting **October 13, 2003 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE HUNDRED PESOS (Php300.00) per set of bidding documents at the following address:

Ms. Fredeswinda P. Perez
BAC Secretariat
G/F GSD, Administrative Service
Department of Budget and Management
Mabini Hall, Malacañang, Manila
Tel. Nos. 735-4902 & 735-4921

Bidders shall submit the bid documents i.e. eligibility requirements and technical and financial proposals in three (3) separate sealed envelopes, to be dropped in the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the BAC Secretariat at the above-mentioned address. **For janitorial services, deadline for submission of bids shall be on November 19, 2003, Wednesday, not later than 9:00 A.M. For Security Services, submission of bids will be on November 19, 2003, not later than 1:00 P.M. In both cases, opening of bids will take place immediately thereafter. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat.

The DBM reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract; and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **LUIS C. LIWANAG II**
Undersecretary and
Chairperson, DBM-BAC

(PDI–Oct. 13 & 20, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Occidental
Municipality of Ilog
-oOo-

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: October 20, 2003
World Bank Loan No: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Construction of School Buildings. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The Municipality of ILOG, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the Construction of School Buildings for the following sites:
   a. Andulauan National High School – Poblacion Extension – 2 Storey – 8 CL
   b. Bocana National High School – Galicia Extension – 2 Storey – 6 CL
   c. Tabu National High School – Balicotoc Extension – 2 Storey – 6 CL
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting **October 21, 2003-November 20, 2003** at the Municipal Treasurer's Office, Municipal Building, Municipality of Ilog, Negros Occidental upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos** (P5,000.00) or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested biddres may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of **Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (P360,000.00)** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the Municipal Treasurer's Office, Municipal Building, Municipality of Ilog, Negros Occidental on or before 10:00 AM of **November 20, 2003** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on **November 6, 2003,** 9:00 AM at the Ilog Multi Purpose Hall, Ilog, Negros Occidental.

(Sgd.) JOHN PAUL K. ALVAREZ
Municipal Mayor

(PDI–Oct. 20, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

Invitation to Pre-Qualify and Bid

The LTO Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting all reputable Contractors to Pre-qualify and bid for Janitorial Services and Freight Forwarding Services for CY 2004.

Prospective bidders are required to submit the following prequalification requirements to the Office of the Chairman, BAC, Sub-Committee, Property Section on or before October 29, 2003.

1. Name, address and telephone number of Company;
2. Registration Papers and Certificate of Accreditation from DTI;
3. Mayor's Permit and/or license to operate for the current year;
4. 2001 and 2002 Financial Statement;
5. SEC Articles of Incorporation. In case of Single Proprietorship, Registration Papers from DTI;
6. Certified True Copy of 2001 and 2002 Income Tax Return and BIR Official Receipt of Payment;
7. Track Record. List of Clients for at least three (3) years;
8. BIR VAT Certificate;
9. A bidder should not have any interest/ownership with other companies/ supplier and therefore must submit only one (1) Bid. Sister companies will be disqualified in the bidding proper.

Pre-bidding conference for Janitorial Services will be on November 6, 2003 and for Freight Forwarding Services on November 7, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. Bidding proper for both services will be on November 21, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the LTO Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

The LTO neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate and indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid nor does it guarantee that award will be made.

The LTO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, ban any bidder with unsatisfactory and derogatory track record, LTO may award the aforesaid projects to any contractor whose proposal as evaluated by the LTO-BAC is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PERCIVAL A. CENDAÑA**
BAC, Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 20, 2003)

Department of Health
Center for Health Development III
Bataan General Hospital
MARIVELES MENTAL WARD
Mariveles, Bataan

SIGLA

October 20, 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The MARIVELES MENTAL WARD (MMW) will conduct a Public Bidding on November 25, 2003

1. **Drugs & Medicines and Pharmacy Supplies**
2. **Miscellaneous, Office and Medical Supplies**

Only responsible and duly accredited suppliers by the Department of Health (DOH) as certified by the DOH Accreditation Committee are qualified to participate upon presentation of the following:

1. Business Registration - DTI/SEC
2. DOH Accreditation
3. VAT/BIR Tax Clearance Certificate
4. Mayor's Permit
5. License to Operate
6. Certificate of Distributorship
7. CPR/BFAD Certificate for Product requiring Cert.
8. List qualified Product
9. Accomplished track record form
10. Authorization to participate the Bidding for New Sales/Med Rep.

Submission of Complete Requirements will be on November 10-13, 2003. Issuance of Complete set of Bid Documents will start on November 14, 2003 and ends on November 19, 2003 at the MMW Supply Section upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 per set. Pre-Bid Conference for Drugs and Medicines, Miscellaneous, Office and Medical Supplies will be on November 20, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, Office of the Chief of Hospital, Mariveles Mental Ward, Mariveles, Bataan. Bidders are required to submit their signed Bid proposals before 10 a.m. on November 25, 2003.

A 2.5% Bidder's Bond based on the total bid price in cash or manager's check. GSIS Bond (Callable on Demand) or Private Insurance Agency accredited by the Insurance Commission shall accompany the BID/Financial proposal and enclosed in an envelope. A 10% PERFORMANCE BOND based on the Total contract price is required for the winning bidder. The bond shall be in form similar to that of Bidder's Bond.

The MMW hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids or waive any formality therein and/or accepts such bids as may be considered the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) MANUEL P. PONCE, M.D., C.H.A., C.E.S.e.
Chief of Hospital III

Trunk line (047) 935-4617; AO Office (047) 935-4138; COH/SHO Office (047) 935-4613;
Supply Section (047) 935-4063; Nursing Service (047) 935-5707;
Fax Nos. (047) 935-4138/935-4063

(PDI--Oct. 20 & 21, 2003)

LINIS DAGAT

Sogo Regency Hotel takes initiative to clean up Manila Bay

(MANILA; OCT. 11, 2003) Sogo Regency Hotel in Malate took the initiative to help in cleaning up Manila Bay near the Baywalk area in Roxas Boulevard through its "Hakot-Basura" project. This worthwhile endeavor is being implemented by Hotel Sogo in support of Manila Councilor Kim Atienza's noble project of cleaning up and beautifying Roxas Boulevard and the entire Manila City.

Hotel Sogo, known for being the "pinakamalinis" lodging establishment in the Philippines, is extremely conscious on the cleanliness and sanitation issues within and outside its branches. Hotel Sogo, particularly the Sogo Regency Hotel, plans to continuously tie up with the Manila City's Office of the Mayor for worthwhile projects which benefit the constituents of Manila City.

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Editor Leo Magno

Survey: More Filipino women going online

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

A LOCAL survey shows that more Filipino women are now going online.

According to the second part of the "Filipino Internet User Report" of DigitalFilipino, the number of women spending time in front of computer screens surfing the Internet has surpassed the number of Filipino males.

The survey was based on a random survey of more than 1,000 Internet users in the Philippines. It was conducted from May to September 2003.

"The number of women online is growing. For the past four years that we've been doing these surveys, this is the first time that more women are online than men," the study's proponents said.

Meanwhile, the survey also noted that young people make up the majority of Internet users in the country.

They access the Internet mostly from schools or the Internet cafés, and this goes true for Filipino women as well. Meanwhile, the survey said that majority of male Internet users access the Internet from their homes.

The study also noted that 31 percent of PC owners have more than one computer in their homes. Seven percent also admitted to have set up their own local area network connections at home.

More men use broadband Internet access more often than women.

On the average, Filipino Internet users spend at least 14 hours a week online. E-mail, Web browsing, instant messaging, accessing entertainment information, and reading news were found as the top Internet activities of Filipino users.

RP bows out early, Europeans dominate World Cybergames

Text and Photos
By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE PHILIPPINE team gave it their all and pushed their hands and eyes to the limit, but still fell short as they were bested by other players worldwide in the World Cybergames 2003 held in Seoul, South Korea from Oct. 12 to 18.

SEOUL, South Korea—Over 500 computer gaming athletes from across the world gathered here to battle each other for the World Cybergames (WCG) 2003. In the end, professional computer gamers—mostly coming from developed countries in Europe—dominated the games this year.

All the Philippine representatives to the World Cybergames were eliminated during the first two days of the round-robin competition.

The WCG 2003—the Olympics of computer gaming—was held from Oct. 12 to 18.

"Players with the right attitude and the spirit to win have won this year. The Philippine team lacked that determination," said Philippine team leader Tjader Regis, reacting to the early loss of the nine-player delegate sent to compete against the world's top gamers.

The Philippines participated in at least three games, including the real-time strategy game "Starcraft: Brood Wars" and "Warcraft 3: Reign of Chaos" by Blizzard Entertainment and the first-person shooter game "Half Life: Counterstrike" by Sierra.

Warcraft is the latest real-time strategy game by Blizzard. Gameplay is similar to Starcraft, which is developed by the same firm. Counterstrike, on the other hand, is a popular first-person shooter games in the world.

Both Mark Espina and Marvel Mendoza, the Philippine players for Starcraft, were overpowered by more experienced players from the United States, Canada and Germany as early as the round-robin match during the first two days of the competition.

"I was playing like a newbie," Espina told Infotech after an intense game with Cesar Robles of Panama. The 19-year-old cyberathlete was the country's No. 1 player in this category, as he defeated former top player Mendoza during this year's national preliminaries.

Regis, in reaction to the early loss of the Philippines, said the Filipino players were obviously outclassed by more experienced players. Meanwhile, the Philippine representatives to Warcraft 3 and Counterstrike were also eliminated during the round-robin matches.

John Benedict Cruz, the Philippines' top bet for WCG 2003, was eliminated after losing three straight games to so-called "pro-gamers" or gamers who have corporate sponsorships. Cruz was the country's

RP BOWS/B18

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Canon
Technology that makes you smile

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo graced the launch of Convergys Corp.'s contact centers in the Philippines. With her are (from left) Convergys country manager Marife Zamora, Convergys customer management group president Jack Freker and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas.

DTI targets increase in contact center jobs from 30K to 50k

By Leo Magno

TRADE Secretary Mar Roxas is working on increasing the manpower pool of Filipino contact center professionals from 30,000 to 50,000 by the end of the year as more contact center operations continue to see the Philippines as a prime location for outsourced business process operations.

There are more than 200 contact centers employing close to 32,000 Filipinos in the country. This pool of worker fills in 20,000 seats in various outsourced call center operations in Metro Manila, Cebu and other regions in the country.

"We've doubled the size of the contact center industry this year for the third year in a row, and we expect to continue that trend in the next years to come," Roxas said during the opening of Convergys Corp.'s two new integrated contact centers in the Philippines.

"Convergys will add on to that number with around 3,000 more jobs," he said.

Convergys has opened its facilities at the Enterprise Center in Makati and the Robinsons Equitable Center in Pasig. The company also announced a third center at the North Gate Cyberzone in Alabang.

The third site in Alabang which will have anywhere from 500 to 700 seats will bring in $7 to $10 million worth of equipment, real estate and infrastructure investments, according to Jack Freker, president of Convergys' customer management group. The Alabang site will be housed in a three-story building covering 65,000 square feet.

"When these three contact center facilities reach their production capacity of 1,500 workstations, Convergys will have three of the largest multi-client US-company-owned contact centers in the Philippines employing more than 3,000 people," Freker said.

Some of the contact center's clients include big American companies such as AT&T, DirecTV, Comcast and Sprint PCS.

The Philippines has become a viable contact center investment alternative for historical, technological and cultural factors. According to research firm International Data Corp., the country is expected to get 15 percent of total call center investments in the region.

Freker said an advantage the Philippines has over other countries is its 94-percent literacy rate, Western-patterned educational system and one of the lowest telecommunication connectivity costs in the world at $7,000 per E1 2-Mb international private leased circuit.

Roxas said, however, that the contact center industry also has other benefits aside from direct foreign investments.

"Aside from the direct benefits such as foreign investments, infrastructure development and employment opportunities for Filipinos, new contact centers also have collateral benefits in the real estate industry," Roxas said.

The trade secretary added that "50 to 60 floors of heretofore vacant properties after the Asian financial crisis" have been filled up by contact center operations coming into the country.

BCDA

BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR THE SELECTION OF FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR THE PREPARATION OF PRIVATIZATION PLAN OF BCDA SHARES IN FBDC

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested banks/financial institutions to participate in the selection of Financial Advisor for the preparation of the privatization plan of BCDA shares in Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC).

FBDC, the joint venture corporation between BCDA and Bonifacio Land Corporation (BLC) was organized for the purpose of developing Phase I of the 214 hectares Fort Bonifacio area. BCDA is 45% shareholder of FBDC while the equity contribution of BLC is 55%.

BCDA is seriously considering **disposing** its shares in FBDC in line with its disposition mandate and the current privatization trusts of the national government. BCDA is seeking proposals for a Financial Advisor who would prepare the privatization plan, valuation/market studies, determination of the number of shares to be disposed and the optimal timing/schedule of disposition considering the present market conditions.

Interested banks/financial institutions may submit their Letter of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) in the Selection of Financial Advisor for the preparation of privatization plan of BCDA shares in FBDC.

The TOR for the above services will be ready for distribution to interested parties on October 12-21, 2003 from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM at the BCDA offices at a non-refundable cost of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) for each TOR, payable to BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

BCDA will only accept prospective bidders with the following minimum qualifications:

- Must have at least three (3) years experience in financial advisory services; and
- Must have undertaken financial advisory services of projects totaling to P500 million and above for the last five years.

Interested parties are invited to attend the bid conference set at 2:00 p.m. on 22 October 2003 **instead of the 10:00 a.m. as previously stated in our ads last 12 October 2003**. The objective of the bid conference is to discuss the proposed disposition of FBDC shares, TOR and other possible questions that may be raised by the interested bidder. The venue of the meeting will be at the BCDA Corporate Center, VAB, Pasay City.

Interested banks/financial institutions can direct their inquiries to Mr. Victor V. Zablan and/or Ms. Hedda Y. Rulona at telephone numbers 510-0410 and 551-1836 or at vvzablan@bcda.gov.ph or hyrulona@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) RUFO COLAYCO
President & CEO

(PDI – October 15 & 20, 2003)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-PSD 2003-010

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 17, 2003; 9:00 AM			
10A1	ELECTROMATIC RELIEF VALVE ASSY.	MCF-02-649 (JP)	P 3,600,000.00
10A2	SCAPPER AND CHAIN GUIDE ROLLERS FOR MAINT. DRAG CHAIN CONVEYOR OF BOILER BOTTOM ASH CONVEYING SYSTEM	MCF-02-714 (JP)	P 1,300,000.00
10A3	CENTRIFUGAL PUMP CAP.: 12.5 CU M/HR MFR.: INGERSOLL DRESSER PUMPS OR EQUIV. CENTRIFUGAL PUMP CAP.: 60 CU.M/HR MFR.: INGERSOLL DRESSER PUMPS OR EQUIV.	MCF-02-779/780 (JP)	P 400,000.00/ P 2,000,000.00
10A4	REPAIR KIT 4" DIA., BALL VALVE, EB 12M-628G	MCF-03-221 (JP)	P 1,400,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 17, 2003; 2:00 PM			
10B1	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR, MAT'LS., PARTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR RECONDITIONING OF ENGINE OF CATERPILLAR 928 G PAYLOADER WITH SERIAL NO. 7SR00155	MCF-03-417 (JP)	P 1,800,000.00
10B2	PARTS FOR BMH SCREW TYPE SHIP UNLOADER HORIZONTAL CONVEYOR AND VERTICAL CHUTE	MCF-03-443 (JP)	P 16,200,000.00
10B3	FIXED WARNING STATION, SOLAR POWERED REMOTELY CONTROLLED AT BINGA OR SAN ROQUE DAM OFFICES	FFW-02-841 (JP)	P 7,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 18, 2003; 9:00 AM			
10C1	FLOW INDICATOR & BREATHER CONTROL SYSTEM	MAG-03-110 (RA)	P 1,440,000.00
10C2	SPAREPARTS FOR MIPREG 600C DIGITAL GOVERNORS OF HYDRAULIC TURBINES	MAG-03-163 (NY)	P 2,500,000.00
10C3	CENTRIFUGAL PUMP, VERTICAL, SINGLE STAGE, CAP.: 400 TO 500 LTRS/MINUTE	MAG-03-167 (NY)	P 990,000.00
10C4	FILTER, AUTOMATIC BACK - FLUSHING FOR TURBINE/GENERATOR COOLING WATER SYSTEM	MAG-03-168 (NY)	P 9,600,000.00
10C5	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MAT'LS IN THE TOTAL REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS FOR CONTROL ROOM AND OTHER OFFICES WITH THREE (3) PACKAGE TYPE WATER-COOLED A/C SYSTEM	MAG-02-210 (JS)	P 1,070,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 18, 2003; 2:00 PM			
10D1	J.O. - REPAIR & RECONDITIONING OF ONE (1) AC MOTOR, BRAND: LEECHUN	BCF-03-397 (NY)	P 1,000,000.00
10D2	ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROPHOTOMETER	BCF-03-541 (ZC)	P 1,950,000.00
10D3	STATIONARY LEAD ACID BATTERY	BCF-03-403 (NY)	P 12,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 19, 2003; 9:00 AM			
10E1	FLOW CONTROL VALVES	BAC-03-632 (RP)	P 3,000,000.00
10E2	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR, MAT'LS. TOOLS, EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SUPERVISION AND COMMISSIONING IN THE INSTALLATION OF VIBRATION PROBES FOR COOLING TOWER GEARBOXES & MOTORS OF BAC-MAN GPP (UNIT 1 & 2)	BAC-03-557 (RP)	P 3,000,000.00
10E3	SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS OF COOLING TOWER GEARBOX (BROOK HANSEN) INCLUDING OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED	BAC-03-665 (RP)	P 3,000,000.00
10E4	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MAT'LS FOR REHABILITATION OF PAGING SYSTEM OF BAC-MAN 1	BAC-03-555 (AC)	P 2,499,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 19, 2003; 2:00 PM			
10F1	CONDENSER LEVEL CONTROL VALVE	BAC-03-729 (JP)	P 1,300,000.00
10F2	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATERIALS, DEVICES, TOOLS AND EQUIPTMENT FOR THE REHABILITATION AND UPGRADING OF FIRE DETECTION, ALARM AND CO2 FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM OF BAC-MAN II, UNIT #3	BAC-03-0432 (JP)	P 9,800,000.00
10F3	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATERIALS, TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, CONSUMABLES AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION IN PAINTING OF MAKBAN SWITCHYARD STRUCTURE AT PLANT A	MGO-03-0308 (JS)	P 900,000.00
10F4	ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROMETER	TGP-03-052 (ZC)	P 2,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 20, 2003; 10:00 AM			
10G1	PORTABLE DATA COLLECTOR/ANALYZER AND SOFTWARE	PGPP1-03-188 (ZC)	P 2,500,000.00
10G2	BEARING ASSY & OIL PUMPS FOR EXHAUST GAS TURBO CHARGER, VTR 401, MANUFACTURED BY BBC, BADEN, SWITZERLAND	PDP1-03-323 (NY)	P 1,161,855.20
10G3	UPGRADING OF DESKTOP COMPUTER, SUPPLY OF FAX MACHINE AND COMPUTER SUPPLIES	CEC-03-005 & ETC. (ID)	P 1,063,060.00
DATE OF BIDDIING: NOVEMBER 20, 2003; 2:00 PM			
10H1	J.O. - SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MAT'LS AND EQUIPT. FOR THE UPGRADING OF EXISTING SERVICE FEEDER CABLES AND CONST. FF POWERHOUSE BLDG. AND PROVISION OF UNDERGROUND CONDUIT FOR FUTURE ADDL LOADS OF CAMARIN GUESTHOUSE	SAD-03-064 (JS)	P 1,172,400.00
10H2	TURBINE BLADE, 2ND STAGE, GENERATOR SIDE	LGP-03-317 (JP)	P 8,400,000.00
10H3	MATERIALS FOR COOLING TOWER UNIT #1, CONSISTING OF EDGE COVER, OMEGA BAR HOLDER/SUPPORT AND ENDWALL CASING	LGP-03-322 (JP)	P 8,975,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the bidding room for the following bidding schedules on:

10A1-10A3, 10B2	NOVEMBER 4, 2003; 9:00 AM	10F2, 10F4 & 10G1	NOVEMBER 5, 2003; 2:00 PM
10B3, 10C2, 10C4 & 10D3	NOVEMBER 4, 2003; 2:00 PM	10H2-10H3	NOVEMBER 6, 2003; 10:00 AM
10E1-10E4	NOVEMBER 5, 2003; 9:00 AM		

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 100.00 per schedule starting on October 24, 2003. **Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. Last day of issuance of bid documents shall be seven (7) calendar days from bid date for each schedule.**

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registrations issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), Surety Bond-Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - Oct. 20 & 27, 2003)

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website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.19@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of Dental Equipment, with an approved budget of Twelve Million Pesos (Php 12,000,000.00) chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds, broken down into five (5) components, as follows:

Dental Equipment	Qty.	Budget
Amalgamator	10	200,000.00
Dental Unit Chair Endodontic Module	10	7,350,000.00
Dental Unit Chair Intraoral Camera Monitor	5	2,150,000.00
Endodontic Unit and Handpiece	10	1,550,000.00
Light Curing Unit	15	750,000.00
TOTAL		12,000,000.00

Only bids from entities who are manufacturers of said equipment and who have or will establish an in-country manufacturing capability for this type of dental equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents for each component will only be available for issuance starting **October 15, 2003** until **October 31, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) each, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 24, 2003** at **09:00 a.m.** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility requirements and the bid envelopes is on **November 13, 2003 at 08:00 a.m.** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at **08:15 a.m.** at the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN, BAC

(Original Signed)
ALEXANDER D ALEO
Brigadier General AFP
Vice Chairman, BAC for GHQ Projects

(PDI - Oct. 16 & 20, 2003)

A transnational company engaged in marketing and distribution of branded household and personal care products is in need of qualified

sales personnel

for their Philippine expansion.

We are looking for:

- An expert in all facets of distributorship management in fast moving consumer goods. He could have been former distributor sales personnel who started with van selling, then promoted to manage key accounts and eventually tasked to handle entire operations.
- With extensive exposure to trade marketing and merchandising including but not limited to in-store promotions, handling of promo girls, blitz among others.
- A self-starter, thinker, doer rolled into one and work with less supervision. At least a college graduate, no more than 30 years old and computer literate.
- Successful candidates will be tasked to manage distributors in Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao. Thus, applicants from VISMIN are also welcome.

If you have what we're looking for, please submit comprehensive resumé to:

gentlesupremephil@yahoo.com

no later than 25th of October 2003. Only qualified applicants will be called for interview.

CALL FOR MERCHANTS!!!

GIFTS & SOUVENIRS SHOW 2003

organized by: PROMENTORS INTERNATIONAL INC.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF: Save Our Souls (S.O.S.) Children's Villages

OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER: PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

OFFICIAL BOOTH SUPPLIER: CENTREX EXHIBITION BUILDERS WORLDWIDE

OFFICIAL CALL CENTER: One Outsource Direct

December 4 to 7, 2003
10:00 AM to 9:00 PM
Megatrade Hall 2, 5th Level
Building B, SM Megamall
EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Metro Manila, Philippines

For details and inquiries, please contact:
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817-0706
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(0917) 886-0912
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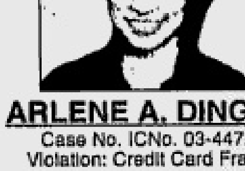
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that the person whose picture appears below was terminated for cause by Legacy Card, Inc. (formerly Legacy Group, Inc.), a member of Legacy Group of Companies. A case has been filed against said person. Any information regarding her whereabouts leading to her arrest will be rewarded.



ARLENE A. DINGLE
Case No. ICNo. 03-4472
Violation: Credit Card Fraud
RA 8484 otherwise known as
"Access Devices Regulation Act of 1998"

Effective immediately the company, its subsidiaries and affiliates (Scholarship Plan Phils., Inc., Legacy Consolidated Plans, Inc., All AsiaPlans Corporation, Legacy Motors, Inc.) shall not honor any transactions entered into by the above person.

Human Resources Department
1438 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
413-2132

(PDI--Oct. 20, 2003)

AUCTION

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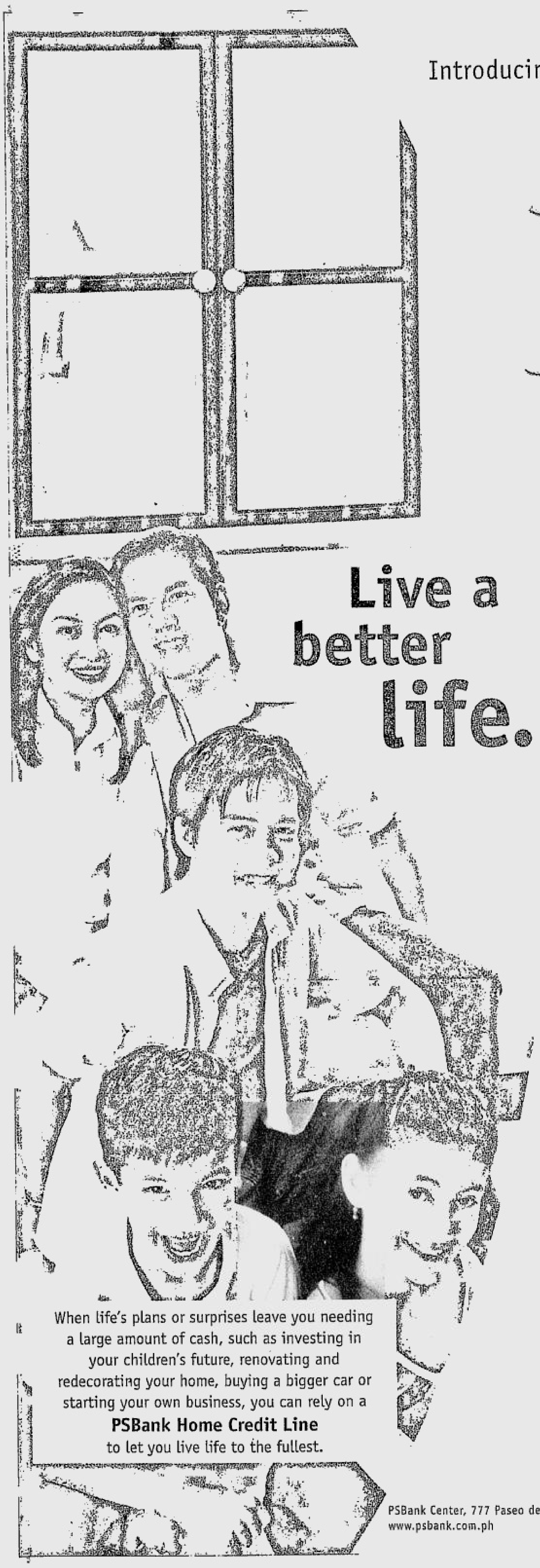
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RP bows out . . .

From page B16

Warcraft champion. Rey Bryan Nebres, for his part, was also defeated early in the competition after losing three games in his group.

Both Warcraft and Starcraft require good reaction time and fast thinking, as players battle it out in a virtual arena. The game starts with players gathering resources, then progresses to building an army. The game ends when one player overwhelms his enemy or if a player resigns.

The Philippine Counterstrike team was eliminated after losing to pro-gamers from Europe, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia and Romania. The Counterstrike team was composed of Kenichi Enda, Arvin Agbisit, Dan Aldrin Bordeos, Sonny Tam and John Miguel Dela Cruz.

The Philippine team also competed in the country-against-country competition, where teams from different countries vied for the top prize money. The Philippine team also lost in this event.

Pros vs amateurs

It was evident during this year's WCG that professional gamers dominated the games during a week of intense competition among different countries.

Similar to traditional athletes who train for years before they enter international competitions, the professional gamers are often sponsored either by their own government or by private stakeholders in the gaming industry, said Regis, as he analyzed the outcome of the country's training and preparation of players for the international tournament.

European and South Korean gamers, for instance, represent this year's strongest contenders who have not only been practicing for years together but are also being paid to play and train, he said.

According to an organizer of this year's WCG, top South Korean players earn as much as $200,000 a year. Last year, South Korea was both No. 1 and No. 2 overall, as it dominated most of the games.

"They are seen as celebrities here," said Kelly Kim, a member of the International Cyber Marketing Co., organizer of WCG2003. "They're like stars. In fact, European players come to South Korea because they are attracted by how much gamers are earning here."

Pro-gamers are usually recruited from gaming leagues that have mushroomed in every country where gaming is treated more than just a game, said Regis.

Similar to real sports, gaming leagues organize many tournaments, and rank the best players according to their performance for a certain period of time. Top-seeded players are the ones sent to international competitions.

In South Korea, Regis said that computer gaming has even been turned into a spectator sport which has been attracting a lot of sponsorships. This has somehow contributed indirectly to the increase of more professional gamers in this Asian country.

"Pro-gamers are objective-based. Filipinos are usually gung-ho and would hunt down the last player standing," Regis said, as he watched the Philippine Counterstrike team play against Europeans.

He said that the Philippine players need all the support from government, private sector and even from the children's parents to be able to compete against other countries.

One of the challenges Regis faced in organizing the Philippine contingent to WCG was getting the nod of the kids' parents. He said that he had trouble getting permission from one of the teachers of the Filipino players who won this year's national preliminaries.

Online gaming

With a population of 48 million people, South Korea is the world's most wired society to date. As of 2002, 64 percent of South Koreans have Internet broadband to their homes, and at least 20 million have access to Internet access, according to David Steel, vice president for convergence marketing group of Samsung Electronics.

Based on the Korea Game Development and Promotion Institute's projections, the Korean game market was worth one trillion won (over $1 billion) in 2001. The agency said that the Korean game industry is expected to grow 21 percent to about 4 trillion won (more than $4 billion) in 2003. Most of the growth, the agency said, was coming from online games such as the popular "Lineage" developed by South Korean firm NCSoft. The agency said online games had accounted for about 25 percent, or 553.1 billion won in revenues.

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BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

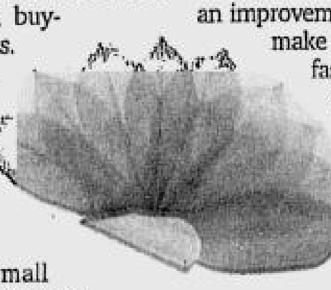
Diversification: A possible dream for SMEs

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor; UP ISSI

"ONLY very large companies can afford to develop new products."

What a shame that far too often, small businessmen are likely to believe they cannot afford the time, effort and expense of new product development.

Yet there have been small businesses who have actually launched new products—in half the time and effort than a big firm does. This is not surprising. In many small firms, the entrepreneur or his managers have a more direct line to customers, buyers, and suppliers. There is quick decision making, as a series of meetings are not required to clear and approve new ideas.



While most small companies cannot do sophisticated usage and attitude studies, controlled and simulated field and test marketing which are tools of the trade of their larger counterparts, they can conduct low-cost qualitative research merely by talking to buyers about product satisfaction and new product needs. This is biased, qualitative research without need for interview controls.

As it is typically closer to its customers, a small firm may take prototypes of a new product to a few but key wholesale customers for initial evaluation and comments. Depending on the verdict of this select panel of evaluators, a new product may be born or aborted.

Refinements in product, packaging, and pricing may be made with each production run, with initial test-marketing done in one or two local marketing areas.

Developing new products from old ones may also be done through value analysis. This can be simply a scrutiny of an existing product with an improvement mindset. How to make it cheaper, better, faster? What happens if it is made smaller, larger, of different, color, shape, and design?

Customers can also dictate new products and product designs. This is especially true in the handicraft industry, where buyers send sketches of designs they want to order. These become the basis for prototyping.

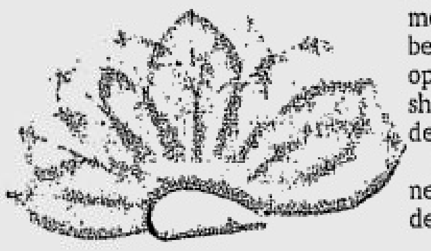
Small businessmen may also seek expert assistance from government agencies, like the Product Design and Development Center of the Philippines (PDDCP), at nominal fees.

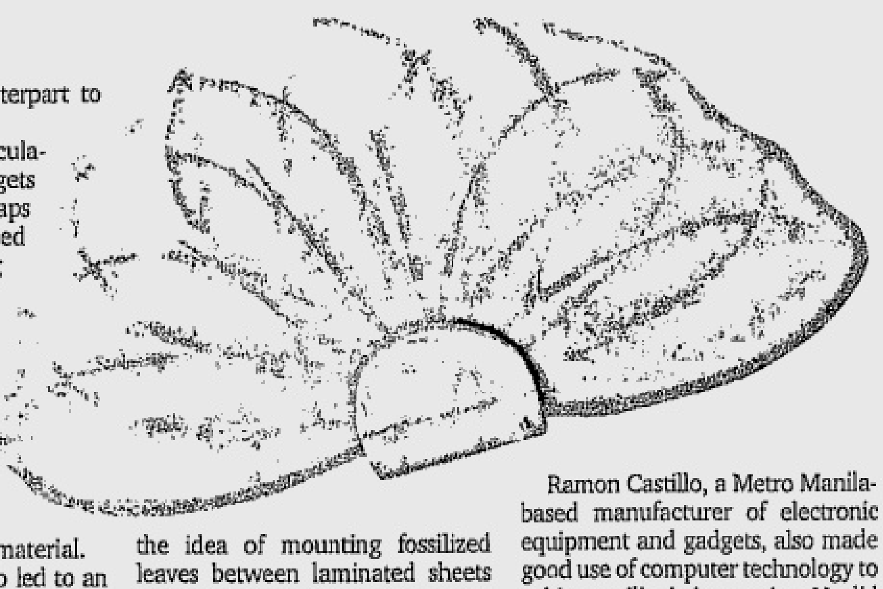
Product development experiences

Small enterprises of little faith may borrow confidence from many of their kind who have, so to speak, gone against the grain.

Chito Madroño, maker of the Eureka brand of educational toys, confirms he does not have to go into expensive research to study his market. All he does is talk to wholesalers, retailers and end users. This way, he gets a direct line into their preferences, satisfaction level, and most especially, their other needs. This may be informal, he says, but may actually be more reliable than statistical research.

When they travel, Chito and his wife, Aida, also make it a point, to look around for products that they can develop locally. Through painstaking prototyping, they make sure that their version of the product is much cheaper but no less world-class quality. This is how they developed Word Factory as their answer to Big Boggle, Crossword as their take on Scrabble, and Leaps and Slips as their counterpart to Snakes and Ladders.





Sometimes, their calculation of the market pulse gets off course, as when Leaps and Slips virtually slipped in the market for being too pricey. When this happens, Chito runs a value analysis on the product, which has often led to its re-engineering. At present, he is working on a prototype of Leaps and Slips that uses cheaper but still quality material.

Value analysis has also led to an evolution of Eureka chess sets. Today, they have chess sets of chip board and vinyl instead of the conventional wooden board. The one of vinyl is rollable and comes in a cylindrical pouch of nylon canvas. The one of chip board is foldable. All Eureka chess sets have been manufactured to tournament specification.

Loreta Rafisura, managing director of Cagayan de Oro-based Salay Handmade Paper Products, Inc. encourages her people—mostly home-based workers—to be creative. When anyone develops a new product design, he or she gets a royalty for every time the design is replicated in production.

This was how one of SHAPII's new products was designed and developed. A worker struck upon the idea of mounting fossilized leaves between laminated sheets to make unique and attractive fans. The idea turned out to be inspired: the fans have since hit it big in local and foreign markets, Loreta says.

Nonetheless, Loreta has lately set up a product development unit which gets guidance from consultants from the PDDC and the Department of Trade and Industry. A consultant from the Association for Fair Trade, Inc. (AFTI) also visits and gives product development ideas.

Many SHAPII customers e-mail drawings of products they want. "We follow these closely, and then e-mail back the images and send the prototype to them. Then we settle all the details before finalizing the order." Such tedious process has nonetheless led to market acceptability.

Ramon Castillo, a Metro Manila-based manufacturer of electronic equipment and gadgets, also made good use of computer technology to achieve agility in innovation. He did product development by surfing the Net for customer specifications; he also searched online for information on integrated circuits. After developing the products, he launched a Net-based marketing campaign.

As these examples show, small dynamic companies need not be a contradiction. Small is nimble -- which leads to faster innovation.

(Growing Your Business is a weekly series by the U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries for forward-looking entrepreneurs who need guidance in their expansion and growth stage. For inquiries on UP ISSI training programs and publications, please call Tel Nos. 928-7076 to 79 or e-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph)

Creating your own investment strategy

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

By Noet E. Ravalo
Inq7.net

I AM often asked which instruments make good investments. It may sound a bit dry but I have always said that it depends on what you have and what you need.

This sounds like a cop out. It isn't. The reality is that HOW you invest will be determined by:

- how much you are investing,
- how big a loss you can afford to accept just in case,
- how often you wish to generate returns,
- how long you want to keep your investments,
- how you react to uncertainties and,
- how much access you have to information that you would need to monitor and manage your investments.

Investment gurus may impress you with their so-called secret methods, but the truth is, it's all a question of how much you have and what it is for.

Very few realize that this premise is based on the most basic principle in finance: Diversity makes a market. Diversity breeds different instruments with different features to cater to the different needs of a diverse public.

Diversity

What does diversity have to do with investment options? That is like asking the difference between a happy employee who makes P10,000 a month and a grumpy executive who makes 20 times that amount. It's all those dizzying zeros to the left of the decimal point and these can easily dictate how aggressive an investor you can be, the type of instruments you can consider in your portfolio and the returns that you can reasonably expect.

If financial institutions describe you as a "high networth individual", you are in the richest tier of Filipino families. You have lots of savings (or you're simply wealthy) and a high income allows you to have a high saving rate. This gives you the twin luxury of having a significant stock of investable funds and a strong flow of new savings. Without a doubt, you belong to the group I call the "Haves."

For this group of investors, returns at par with Treasury bill rates are too "passive." They would be interested in more "sophisticated" instruments that go by different names—derivatives, commercial papers or CPs, fixed rate treasury notes or FXTNs, among others—pursued as much for their higher possible returns and tax benefits. The offer of better returns for these types of investments comes at the price of more risk and a larger minimum investment.

'Getting there'

A notch below the "Haves" is the group I call "Getting There". They have both the wealth and income to be comfortable but not yet at par with the "Haves." Their investments cover a wide range of instruments, which often reflect a strong tolerance for risks that they have specifically considered.

They have some access to investment information but it is often something that they would have to gather themselves. Investors in this group do not have the luxury of their own finance specialist. But if they do seek formal advice it would make good sense to suggest a portfolio of medium-term (i.e., one to three years tenor) instruments where something matures every six months or so. The intent is to mimic a longer-term pool that gives a recurring income but provides an "exit window" of six months just in case the need arises.

'Liquidity savers'

The majority of Filipino savers however are in the "Liquidity Savers" group. The family is likely to have total savings of less than P100,000 at any given point in time. Chances are there are four to six children in these families with both parents receiving a more modest monthly salary. The extended family structure is more the norm than the exception. Since they get their investment information primarily from third party—if not informal—sources, they are very vulnerable to the bandwagon effect.

This group is very sensitive to risk, as there are no "extra" funds to play with. It is therefore important to protect investment principal to avoid financial problems. Unfortunately, this limits their investment options.

Now, nothing from above is absolute. It only reflects my own generic views. But it shows that there are various factors that affect investment advice. "It depends" isn't the cop out that it looks like, but a healthy reminder that you would have to respect details before making any investment.

Once you have done this honest assessment, you could now consider fine-tuning the investment options out there to the resources that you possess and the considerations that matter to you.

(The author retired from the Bankers Association of the Philippines as its Chief Economist in February 2002. Though he spends a good amount of time now with his 5-year-old twin boys, Ravalo continues to help the Economic Affairs and Oversight committees in Congress on some economic issues.)

Exec builds relationships that go beyond work

MANAGEMENT STYLES

By Amy R. Remo

MANAGING over a thousand sales agents and keeping them competent and focused at work, is not an easy job. Especially if the survival of the company relies on them.

The technique to achieving this, according to Cocolife president Alfredo Tumacder Jr., is by building quality relationships with your people that go beyond work.

"We, at Cocolife, promote a culture of employee involvement as one of our core values. We give value to employees by making them feel they belong to one big family," says Tumacder.

Cocolife is the insurance arm of United Coconut Planters Bank. It offers insurance products and related financial services. The key to this business are the sales agents.

Being the president of Cocolife for 17 years, Tumacder has learned that the key to making their employees "feel at home" is by showing genuine concern not only for them, but also to their families. One way of doing this is by listening to employees, whenever they feel the need to talk or air out some difficulties at work.

That is why despite his hectic schedule, Tumacder makes it a point to give time to his employees. He wants them to feel free to step into his office anytime they need to talk.

He also stresses that relationships would last longer when one is honest, transparent and open.

Tumacder adds that sometimes, you have to cultivate these relationships outside of work. This includes being a *ninong* or *ninang* in the baptismal of an employee's child or attending weddings, birthdays and so on.

This is one way, according to Tumacder, of showing "*malasakit*" or stewardship towards your employees, the most important resource in this kind of business.

Benefits and opportunities

Also, as stated in its company mission, Cocolife promotes quality in a relationship by providing compensation, benefits and opportunities for development.

Employees are given opportunities to suggest ways to improve working conditions thru a climate survey held every two years.

In the climate survey, one can air out grievances, suggestions, tips or comments about how Cocolife is being managed, without fear that one's comments would be taken against him.

An Employee Relations Committee was set up to organize Christmas parties, sportsfests, summer outings and other activities for the employees.

TUMACDER

"This is how we balance the employees' work life with play," says Tumacder. "It is also during these activities that we find time to talk to each other and share our concerns."

Managing a huge group

One of the biggest challenges in this business, according to Tumacder, is managing a large organization with varying interests and concerns.

Cocolife has some 1,500 sales agents supervised by about 70 branch managers assigned to about 110 branches nationwide.

Sales agents, who go around making presentations and convincing people to buy insurance, are not regular employees of Cocolife. They earn through commissions. Yet their performance is the most critical element in this business.

"We consider sales agents as our partners that's why we ensure to provide them with appropriate compensation and incentives, as well as adequate training programs," says Tumacder.

The hard part is obtaining the sales agents' sincere commitment to be productive since they only earn via commissions.

Most of the sales agents sell insurance as part-time work. If the interest in and commitment to Cocolife is not sustained, there is a large possibility of losing an agent. This means a decrease in the workforce, hence, a decrease in profits.

To keep these sales agents, the compensation package has to be attractive. Depending on the type of insurance sold, a sales agent can get as much as 55 percent commission on the insurance premium on the first year of payment. Aside from the commission, a sales agent has a year-end bonus and a quarterly bonus, the amounts of which depend on the number of policy-holders they have.

Emphasis on training

Also, Cocolife provides its agents with seminars and training, making sure they grow professionally with the company.

Tumacder emphasizes that training of sales agents is a primary concern.

About five sales agents are assigned to report to a branch manager, who monitors their performances. Monitoring can help point out the weaknesses and strengths of each sales agent. This is how areas for improvement are identified.

Part of their training involves being accompanied by their manager during a sales presentation to a prospective buyer. Sales agents are also shown how to spot opportunities to sell.

Tumacder encourages managers to keep an open-door policy. By this he means that managers should let the sales agents feel free to visit or call them whenever necessary.

Tumacder also says that they strive to instill the values of discipline, entrepreneurship and proper time management to all sales agents.

Without these, one could not expect a sales agent to last long. A difficult job like this requires one to know how to sell and convince as many people as he can to buy insurance.

Biggest challenge

But the biggest test for the sales agents came in 1995 when the government opened the insurance industry to foreign companies.

From the 26 local insurance companies, the number shot up to 42. These multinational foreign companies offered a more attractive compensation package and had introduced new and innovative products in the market. Plus, these companies have big capital.

The challenge here was how to keep the people from transferring to other companies.

Tumacder admits that Cocolife lost a lot of its sales agents and officers. But the kind of employee-involvement culture they have in the company helped.

Despite the stiff competition, Cocolife was able to retain a lot of its sales agents and in time, have come up with new products as well, to keep up with the changing times.

Cocolife ranks 7th among insurance companies and has remained a strong company for its customer base including coconut farmers, policy holders and corporate accounts.

"The job in the insurance business is more difficult but it is more fulfilling because you are able to touch a lot of lives," says Tumacder. "In a way, you get to provide them and their families financial security through insurance."

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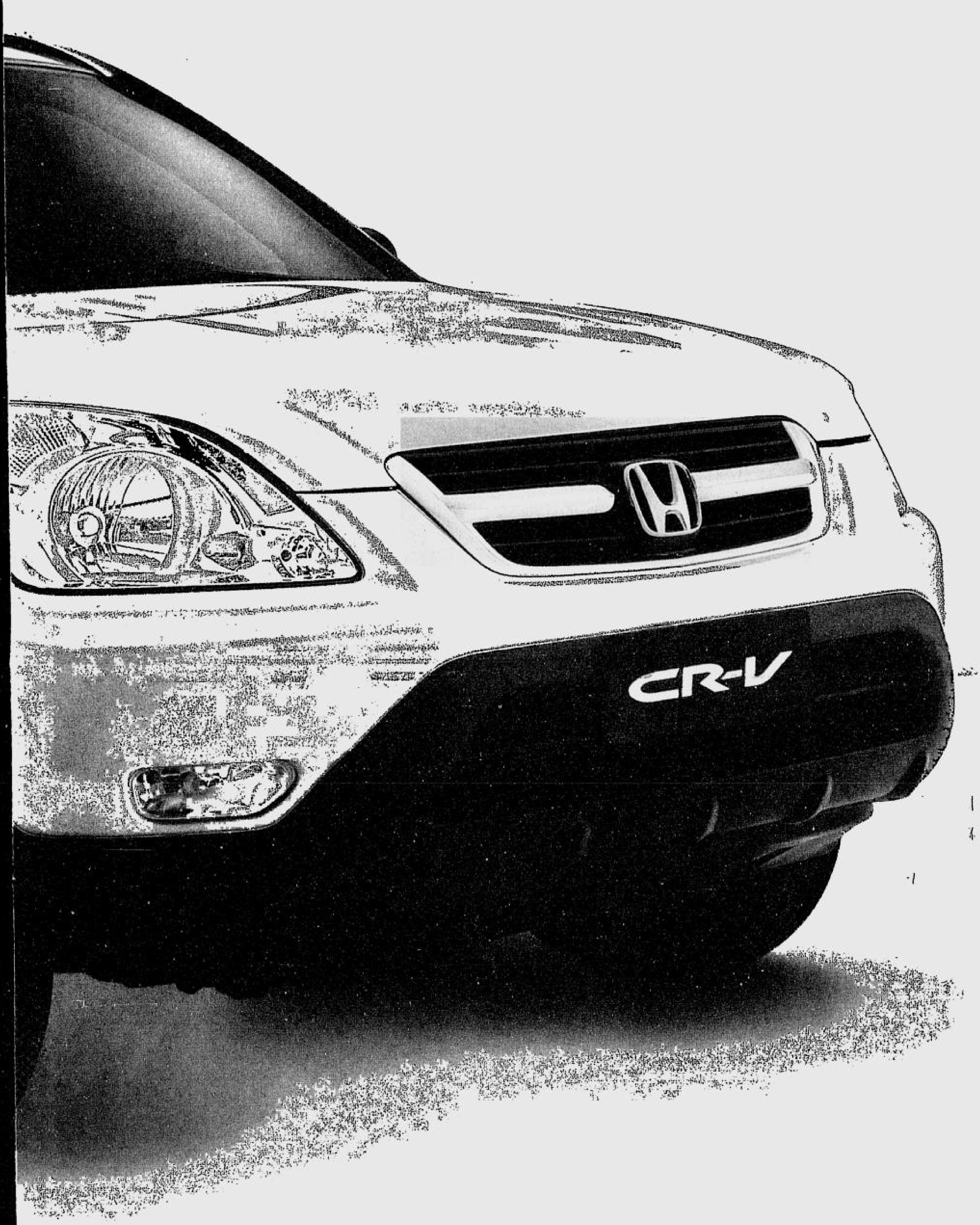

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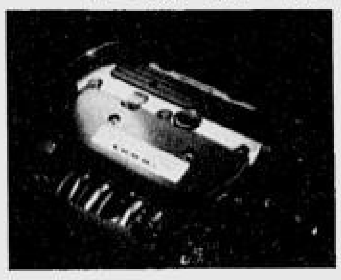

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Local firm's 56-year success story turns into a very sad tale

By Michelle V. Remo

IT WAS a sad story of how the last-standing and proudly Filipino-owned car company in the country ended up in the long list of firms who failed to withstand the entries of Goliaths in the business.

"The problem with this country is that it welcomes foreigners with widely open arms, but keeps on forgetting to support Filipinos. We seem to be strangers in our own place."

This was the bitter statement made by Fernando Francisco, chair of Francisco Motor Corp., as he laments the fate of the 56-year-old, family-owned car-manufacturing firm.

Francisco Motor blames the lack of support from the government, particularly from the Board of Investments, in the local carmaker's dispute with American multinational Ford Motor Co.

Right to Mazda

The row between Francisco Motor and Ford involved the right to assemble and distribute Mazda pick-up trucks in the local market. Francisco Motor had been the exclusive assembler and distributor of Mazda pick-up trucks in the country from 1973 to the late 1990s.

"The name Mazda had always been identified with Francisco Motor. We were the ones who developed Mazda's name in the local market," says Francisco, adding that Francisco Motor had its peak when Mazda became the No. 1 selling pick-up truck in the late 1980s.

Francisco was proud to say that Francisco Motor, which he helped put up with his brothers (the late company founder Anastacio Francisco and George Francisco) was indeed a success story.

He narrated that although starting out small with a P200 capital, Francisco Motor became a major player in the market, strongly competing against multinationals. He recalled that Francisco Motor was born when the siblings thought of putting up a jeepney painting business in Las Piñas. From jeepney painting, Francisco Motor eventually became an assembler of jeepneys and then later on a distributor of foreign vehicles, such as Mazda.

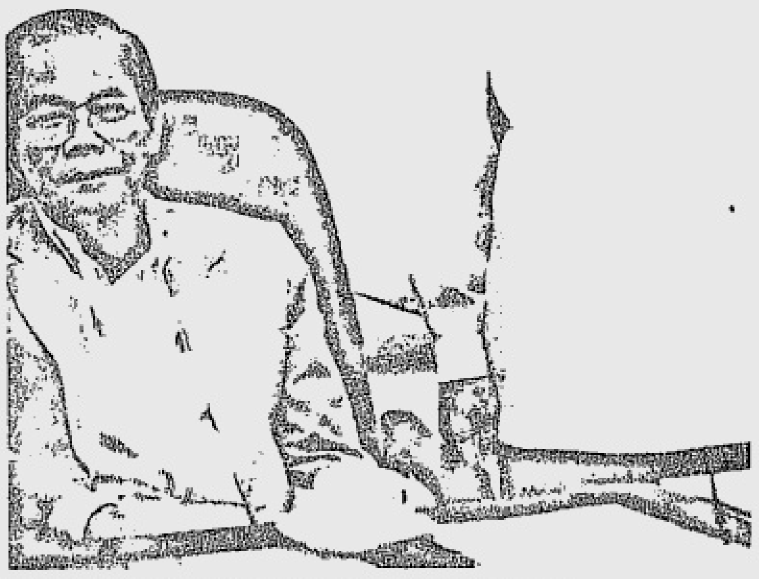
When Ford reentered the Philippines in the late 1990s, it expressed interest in the assembly and distribution of the already lucrative Mazda. Ford is a shareholder of Mazda of Japan.

Ford's business in the Philippines initially began with the marketing of Ford Ranger pick-up trucks. The registration of Ford Ranger with the BOI, however, experienced conflict because it was said to be an exact copy of the already registered Mazda pick-up truck.

According to Francisco, Ford asked Francisco Motor to issue a "letter of no objection" to the assembly and distribution of Ford Ranger to pave the way for its registration with the BOI.

Letter of no objection

Francisco Motor agreed on the condition that the Filipino-owned firm would be allowed to keep its exclusive right to assemble and distribute Mazda until October 2002. Francisco Motor wanted to hold on to its right over Mazda for a few more years despite the entry of Mazda-shareholder Ford because it already spent some $65 million for the development of its manufacturing facility in Las Piñas City. The improvement of Francisco Motor's facility was particularly intended to expand the distribution of Mazda.



FERNANDO and Jorge Francisco during better times.

Francisco said Ford lured Francisco Motor into issuing the no-objection letter with the promise that Francisco Motor will be made a joint-venture partner of Ford in its operations in the country.

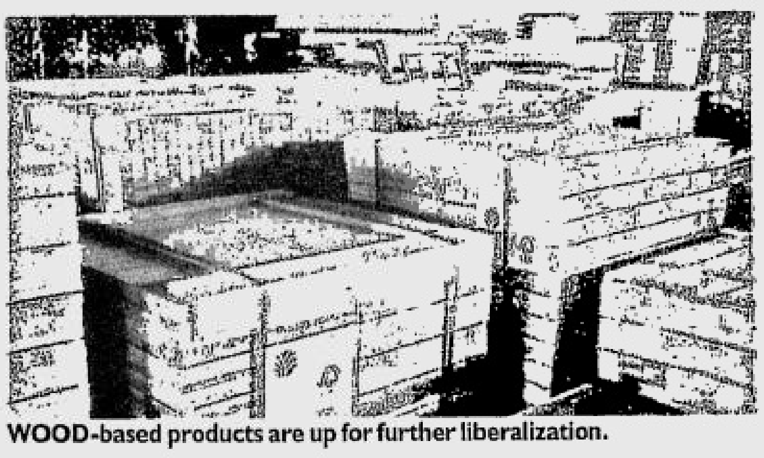
"But none of the things they stated in our agreement pushed through," said Francisco, adding that the "cold treatment" the Filipino-owned firm got from the BOI, to which it ran to for help, was an indication of the government's "bias in favor of foreign investors."

Breach of agreement

Francisco says Francisco Motor withdrew the "letter of no objection" after realizing Ford was not going to follow the agreement. However, the BOI has not yet honored Francisco Motor's withdrawal of the letter. Francisco filed a case with the regional trial court against Ford for breach of agreement and is claiming damages of $65 million.

Ford now assembles Ford Ranger and has even taken over the right to assemble and distribute Mazda. It is currently the only car manufacturer in the

LOCAL/ B3-3



WOOD-based products are up for further liberalization.

Asean: A wading pool for trade

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

IT'S in the news: the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) will form a free trade zone by 2020. What does this mean for the Philippine economy? How will this affect firms?

Incomes boosted

It's best to review the effects of trade. Imagine a lechon manok vendor who's allowed to sell only to his barangay. Suppose the restriction is lifted—he can now sell to the whole city. Will his income fall or rise?

Imagine the vendor is allowed to buy dressed chicken only from within the barangay. Then the restriction is again lifted. He can get his birds from any dealer in the city. Won't he likely get the raw meat at a cheaper price?

Trade greatly enlarges one's market and allows one to shop for cheaper alternatives. That boosts incomes—including the incomes of entire nations.

Double growth rates

Take the case of Ghana and South Korea. In 1967, Ghana's per capita income of $800 per year was greater than the corresponding $550 dollars of Korea. Then Ghana chose to restrict trade but South Korea liberalized it.

Just 30 years later, Ghana's per capita income had fallen to $370 dollars while that of South Korea hit $10,360.

There is overwhelming evidence that trade fires up world growth. This is old hat among economists but rarely heard outside the profession.

"Nations that have been more open to trade have experienced double the annual growth rates of those that have been closed," concludes a study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

There is also overwhelming proof that high growth lowers the incidence of poverty.

"There is no question that poverty has fallen where growth has been higher," says Malcolm Dowling of the University of Melbourne. "The evidence here is overwhelming." The data show that high growth results in "quite dramatic" drops in poverty.

Threat to some industries

But wait, it's not as simple as that. When cheap imports flood a country, some local producers may be threatened. How then can manufacturing take root? This is the infant industry argument: the baby industry should be shielded from foreign competition in this early stage. It is a valid point. Governments often protect local industries from imports to give the former time to grow.

It makes sense then to open up trade via negotiations, rather than to blow up all barriers in one big bang. That's the idea behind the talks of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

But the industrialized countries are not behaving. While pushing for free trade for the world, they are opposing it at home. President George W. Bush slapped a tariff of up to 30 percent on imported steel. The Economist magazine called it "America's most protectionist single action for two decades." Later on he signed a farm bill which hiked subsidies to American farmers by 80 percent.

The industrialized nations in general are raising immense subsidies to protect their agriculture. The subsidies doubled, from $ 182 billion in 1995 to $ 362 billion in 1998.

Learning to swim

Contradictions hound global free trade, so it's welcome news that Asean will work towards it on a smaller scale.

Filipino exporters can thus cater to a market of 550 million people.

Annual trade within the ten-member Asean is already worth $ 720 billion.

The impoverished Muslim provinces in Mindanao can get rich exporting to Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia. The Filipino poor can get cheap rice at about a third of current prices.

Asean has pinpointed 11 priority sectors for further liberalization: the car industry, garments and textiles, e-commerce, healthcare, airlines, tourism, wood-based products, marine and aquatic products, rubber, agro-based products, and electronics.

So far, almost all tariffs for manufactured goods traded among the six original Asean members have been slashed to 0-5 percent. Then trade barriers within Asean will be totally gone by 2020.

One can thus think of Asean as a wading pool, where countries learn to swim through the waves of local free trade. The member nations would then build up muscle as they venture into the sea of global free trade. Intra-Asean trade will allow nations to make the needed adjustments.

Getting ready

What should the Philippine government do as it helps build the Asean wading pool?

First, it should identify what industries will benefit most from the zone, and what will be most hurt. It should publish the findings widely.

Second, it should encourage businesses to invest accordingly. For example, cheap rice will eventually be imported. Rice farmers should thus devote part of their land to planting higher-value crops.

Third, it should build up the capability of the gainer industries. This will mean sharpening our edge via training, research dissemination, and marketing support. Even school curricula must be upgraded.

Having learned to swim in Asean waters, the Philippines can thus launch into the deep.

Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>

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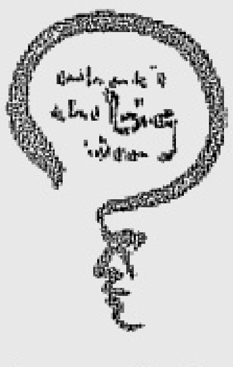
Araw Awards intensifies criteria for judging



THE 18TH Philippine Advertising Congress celebrates Filipino Big Ideas as the key to progress. In line with the theme, the Araw Awards, which is organized by the Advertising Board of the Philippines, has adopted innovations that reflect the realities, which the globalizing advertising industry has faced in recent years. Implemented reforms, which include redefining the criteria for judges, as well as the introduction of new categories such as Direct Mail and Interactive, were based on the suggestions of previous creative committee members. These were designed to improve the caliber of competition and focus on the best work, a necessary move in the face of intense global competition.

The Araw Awards drew a total of 3,166 submissions from over 100 entrants. 4A's member agencies, media outfits, as well as production houses submitted entries in over 18 categories.

At the helm of this year's Araw Awards is Peachy Todino-Pacquing, the chair of the competitions committee. The competitions committee is composed of creative directors from leading advertising agencies. Aside from monitoring the actual judging, the committee was tasked with selecting the judges as well as prescreening all the entries. The prescreening process was an integral part of the competition, as it determined whether or not submissions met all the eligibility requirements that were outlined in the rules. Entrants with submissions that failed to meet the eligibility requirements were notified and given enough time to submit the necessary requirements. In keeping with the rules, those that failed to do so were disqualified.

As part of the global thrust of this year's Advertising Congress, overseas judges were invited to sit on the 14-man jury that judged TV, print, outdoor and multi-media entries. Each overseas judge is a leading figure in his own market, and has achieved significant international success. Sonal Dabral from Ogilvy and Mather in Kuala Lumpur, David Blackley from BBDO Clemenger, Norman Tan from J. Walter Thompson in Singapore, Jureeporn Thaidumrong from Saatchi & Saatchi Thailand and Steve Elrick from BBH Singapore judged entries in tandem with local industry leaders such as Emily Abrera of McCann-Erickson, Yoly Ong from Campaigns & Grey, Mario Monteagudo from Creative Partners, and Melvin Mangada from TBWA-SMP. Local executive creative directors with overseas representatives opted to give up their slots in the TV, print, outdoor and multi-media jury in order to ensure balanced representation. Three other juries composed entirely of local industry members judged the remaining categories. Specifically, there was an eight-man jury for radio, a seven-man jury for direct mail design and interactive, and nine jurors for broadcast crafts.

According to Todino-Pacquing, the selected judges each had to meet stringent criteria. Judges were chosen according to their merit and credentials, as well as their status as industry pillars. "Judges were Creative Guild Ad of the Year winners, Araw platinum winners, Cannes or Clio award winners and Araw Gold winners. Overseas judges also had to meet the set criteria," she explains. "We were also careful to form juries that reflected agency population. For example, since McCann is the largest agency in the Philippines, they had four representatives, one on each jury."

The Araw Awards judging was held at the Hotel Intercontinental from Oct. 6 to 8. For three days, judges viewed thousands of entries, some of which were described as truly "world class."

Drawing from the experience as the official auditors of the Araw Awards since 1989, respected auditing firm Punongbayan and Araullo introduced additional safeguards to protect the integrity of this year's results. Unlike in previous years, Punongbayan and Araullo used their own runners to deliver the judging sheets directly from the judges to the auditors. They also used two tabulation processes, manual and electronic and instituted a number of checks, to ensure that the results were a hundred percent accurate.

The finalist list, which was tabulated by Punongbayan and Araullo, was released last Oct. 13. Over 431 print, TV and radio entries with world-class standards emerged as Araw Awards finalists. According to creative committee chair David Guerrero, "We hope the results will provide us all with the inspiration and direction to reach our goal: to make the Philippines a regional center for creative excellence, and a significant global creative competitor."

The Araw Awards night, as always, happens after the official closing of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress. It will be held at Camp John Hay's CAP Convention Center on Saturday, Nov. 22. Tickets are still available for non-delegates at P500. To reserve your tickets, call 4820002-03.

HIGHWAY 35 GRAND CHAMPIONS
On Aug. 31, Richwell Trading Corp, the exclusive distributor of Hot Wheels die-cast cars in the Philippines, held the grand finals of the World of Trax Competition at Toy Kingdom-the amazing toy store. All the winning teams were composed of avid fans of Hot Wheels. Shown are the winners of the senior category, the Street Breed. The winners bagged the P10,000 cash prize, plus other gift items from sponsors. Hot Wheels die-cast cars and track accessories are available at all leading toy stores nationwide. Hot Wheels is exclusively distributed by Richwell Trading Corp, with telephone no. 732-5141.

SFC offers scholarships

SOUTHVILLE Foreign Colleges is offering 24 full Dr. Walter Liebrecht scholarships for SY 2004-2005. The scholarships will enable recipients to study at SFC and have full exposure to exceptional international professionals, receive college tuition, and have the opportunity to travel abroad or decide to go on and earn an MBA, which is part of the SFC "online" program.

The scholarship committee will receive applications for the scholarships on or before Oct. 31. A committee will review applications of the top 300 candidates; of these, 24 will be selected. Out of the 300 chosen, 100 will be given partial scholarships of 50 percent tuition.

The 24 selected awardees will enjoy full scholarships under the three-year Bachelor of Science programs in Business International Marketing and Information Technology, and the one-year Hotel and Restaurant Management course.

The 22 other full scholarships will be given to those topping the qualifying exams and interview by the scholarship and grant awards committee. Special consideration will be given to applicants with an exceptional talent, sports and artistic interest, and willingness to assist SFC in its student activity programs.

The 100 awardees will receive $2,925 to $3,150 a year in the form of discounts, plus other miscellaneous expenses over the next three years as students at SFC. They will also be taking either international management, computer science, or hotel and restaurant management. In the last course, those who desire to pursue further studies may proceed to the Isle of Man, England, under a different arrangement.

Each applicant must complete an application form to be submitted to the selection committee. This will be accompanied by a letter of interest, an essay on the topic, "Why I should be awarded a scholarship to SFC," and a nomination letter by teachers, counselors and school administrators where the applicant is coming from. Applicants must have top ranking in their high schools.

SFC, located in BF International, Las Pinas City, is affiliated with London City College, American City University, Ihmes International Hotel School, and Schiller International University. It develops global leaders and professionals, has a faculty of established Filipino and foreign practitioners, and follows the British academic structure of a bachelor's degree in only three years of study.

The scholarship and grants committee is made up of Dr. Genevieve Ledesma Tan, chair, Southville Educational Estate, Roger Bartholomew, chair, SFC, Dr. Rodolfo G. Ibanez, president, SFC, Alfred Milevoi, consultant, chair, School of Management, SFC, Carol Pido, head of school, Ihmes, Rikka Dayap, academic dean and registrar, SFC, and Robert Green, consultant, chair, School of Computer Science and Information Technology.

Applications for scholarship grants are available at the Dean/Registrar's Office at SFC. Connect to www.sfc.colleges.com, or e-mail contact@sfc-colleges.com, or fax 820-5952.

COCA-COLA PHILS BEST IN MARKETING
Coca-Cola Philippines was awarded Best in Marketing for 2002 for its McDonald's account in the beverage company's South Asia/Pacific Group. Shown is The Coca-Cola Company Philippines division customer marketing director Herman Medina-Cue (left) receiving the award from Coca-Cola South Asia/Pacific vice president Doug Filer. The Coca-Cola South Asia/Pacific Group also includes Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Samoa, Tahiti, Fiji, Brunei and New Caledonia.

Kiwanis club induction

THE KIWANIS Club of Imus invites the public to its 11th induction of officers and new members on Oct. 25, 6 p.m. at the Island Cove Resort in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. The Club will induct its incoming president Pepito S. Nave.

VELTRUP TECHNIK LAUNCH
Eike Peter Sacksofsky, head of the Economic Section of the German Embassy, and Marichu Yap cut the ceremonial ribbon during the launch of Veltrup Technik Philippines Inc in Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Veltrup has recently introduced a state-of-the-art high-pressure water technology for de-clogging tubes and pipelines ranging from 10 to 5,000 mm. The technology was invented 25 years ago in Germany, and has been continuously developed. Soft to hard incrustations like silica, cement, petroleum coke or burnt milk can now be removed. The system is applicable in power plants, chemical and petrochemical plants, water and sewage systems. The technology is said to reduce costs in the medium term. Veltrup Technik considers a job done when tubes and pipelines are clean down to pure metal.

ProductFiles

Georgie on Ice White: A touch of class

WHITE goes with everything. Just like the classic white shirt, you too can put on the clean scent of class with Georgie On Ice White.

What could be classier than a clean, pure feeling? It's a reminder of simpler, less complicated times. There's nothing like a touch of white to put some sense of order in cluttered space. These are the same principles behind Georgie On Ice White.

The Georgie On Ice White collection is a line of women's fragrances that lets you feel clean and fresh. A soothing mixture of jasmine, lemon, woody and musky notes...the overall experience is clean and classic.

Pure and simple. With the convenient 10 ml, carry-anywhere Fragrance Rollete, it's a cinch to dab it on your pulse points to refresh and invigorate the senses. The 75-ml Body Spray brightens your day with a quick spray all over your body.

Goergie On Ice White is available exclusively at Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines (formerly known as House of Sara Lee) and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. For inquiries, call hotline 810-5402.

Mobile car wash stirs frenzy for franchises

THE PIONEERING mobile car wash business of a local entrepreneur has gone into franchising and has drawn avid interest among enterprising Filipinos.

This was revealed by its inventor Norman Ray Gacula, president and chief executive officer of G&E Franchising and Marketing Corp, a domestic company owned by some of the members of the Overseas Filipinos WorldNet (OFWNet) Foundation Inc., a non-government organization formed to economically empower overseas Filipinos worldwide.

Gacula said inquiries for franchises had been swamping his office since he joined the international expo staged by the Philippine Franchise Association at the PICC Forum Hall recently.

The inquiries were obviously triggered by the unique business concept, minimal investment, and the huge market of some 2.2 million vehicles nationwide.

The total investment required is only P185,000-inclusive of franchise fee, mobile unit, training, and initial stocks-all in and ready to operate.

Invented only early this year, the mobile car wash has already generated around 70 franchise applications, and 10 of them have booked.

"I was having my car washed then when it occurred to me that it could be a good business to have it done in the comfort of one's home or office," Gacula narrated.

Thus, Gacula conducted a feasibility study on the matter as he looked for suppliers of the equipment and materials he needed, which included a pressure washer, vacuum and chemicals.

When he found his requirements, he asked an engineer to design a body for his mobile car wash unit. The design was presented to fabricators of vehicles and armored vans, and the prototype took shape in just two months.

This mobile car wash is equipped with vacuum and buffing machines, pressure washer, environmentally safe car shampoo, wax, glass and wheel cleaner, and a refillable tank of more than 200 liters of water, which is good for not less than 10 cars.

Most importantly, Gacula's car cleaners undergo two weeks of training in professional car cleaning.

"This involves the precise application of cleaning solutions and the correct water pressure to prevent any possible damage to your car, which is your second most valuable asset," Gacula explained. "Otherwise, your car paint may be affected, leading to discoloration and early depreciation."

The car cleaners are also trained in dealing with clients. Clad in full uniforms with identification cards, they are courteous, well-mannered and will go about their jobs very professionally, even issuing official receipt to the client after every service.

More units, all made of lighter materials and other improvements, are now being fabricated for the approved franchise applications. Interested investors can contact Gacula at 731-1303 or 731-9501, 0918-9442949, or e-mail ndgacula@hotmail.com.

The business offers three types of operation-one that stations several units in residential or commercial areas, another with units roving in specific localities, and the so-called "on call service" wherein a client will just dial a number and the nearest stationed or roving unit will attend to him immediately.

For a simple wash, this professional service takes only 30 minutes and for only P100, which guarantees a cleaner, shinier and drier car while saving the client precious time.

As it is, the business has proven to be an ideal venture for Filipinos who need a good source of primary or secondary income.

Bits Clips

Acoustic Fusion concert

FOR OCTOBER, Petron Corp and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, in association with Palmolive Naturals Shampoo and Fitness First, present "Acoustic Fusion"-a concert bar tour series reverberated by rich vocal harmonies and stirring acoustic symphonies. The main goal of the show is to depart from modern synthesized music and to simply go back to the basics by providing a different twist in the listening experience of the audience. Chill out and be serenaded in any of the following schedules: Oct. 20-Bagaberde, Pasig with Nina and DJ Mike of Akafellas; Oct. 22-Dish, Rockwell Powerplant with Jimmy Bondoc and Romy Jorolan; Oct. 28-Hard Rock Café, Makati with Nyoy Volante and his Mannos with DJ Mike of Akafellas. "Acoustic Fusion" is a production of Manhattan Entertainment.

FEU-NRMF post-grad course

THE FAR Eastern University Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Department of Child Health will hold its 15th Postgraduate Course on Oct. 22 and 23 at the Amorsolo Ballroom, Manila Galleria Suites, ADB Avenue, Pasig City. The theme "Sound, Sensible Perceptive Pediatric Practice II" focuses on the common subspecialty problems frequently encountered in the clinics. The organizing committee led by the program director Dr. Joselito Mattheus has invited a roster of eloquent speakers to talk on these interesting subspecialty issues and problems. For more details and other inquiries, call 937-8286 and 427-0213 local 5009.

Guests at PSYSC workshop

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Youth Science Clubs (PSYSC) will hold a National Children's Science Interactive Workshop (CSIW) from Oct. 20 to 24 at Dumaluan Beach Resort in Panglao, Bohol, with the theme "Bio Adventure: Exploring the Map of Life." Guest speakers during the workshop are Sen. Loren Legarda and Col. Carlyzar Divinagracia, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Air Materiel Wing Savings an Loan Association Inc. More than 700 young science enthusiasts will attend the one-week science camp for elementary students that features anatomy, botany, zoology and ecology. The PSYSC was registered with the SEC in 1974.

Foodservers training set

BE A good foodserver in just five days. A Basic Foodservers Training has been set by ProActive Center for Training (PACT) from Oct. 20 to 24, 1 to 5 p.m. at Ipanema Bar and Restaurant, 2nd level Eastwood Citywalk, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Registration and inquiries are accepted at 787-6370 or 0916-8226053. The course is open to those who would like to pursue a foodservice career here and abroad or in luxury liners, and to those engaged in a foodservice business. Trainers are foodservice consultants and professors of hotel and restaurant management who are award-winning coaches of the student division on Chefs on Parade.

Mapping . . .

From page B3-4

He goes on to describe a jazz band as an example of servant leadership.

"The jazz band leaders choose the music, find the right musicians, and perform -in public. But the effect of the performance depends on so many things-the environment, the volunteers playing in the band, the need for everybody to perform as individuals and as a group, the absolute dependence of the leader on the members of the band and the need of the leader for the followers to play well." (De Pree, Leadership Jazz, page 8).

Like jazz band leaders, corporate leaders of the best employers in Asia work at building a high performance culture.

One such leader is Napoleon Nazareno, CEO of Smart Communications. He will share how he and his team made Smart the 2003 Best Employer in the Philippines on Nov. 4.

(The author is President of the Center for Leadership and Change, Inc. and member of the MAP Conference Committee. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

Local firm's 56-year success story turns into a very sad tale

From page B3-1

country that is committed to exporting completely built-up units.

In a recent visit to Manila, Ford's chair and and CEO committed to invest $50 million over the next several years into its manufacturing plant in Laguna.

Although it engaged in the distribution of other vehicles, Francisco Motor largely depended on the sale of Mazda pick-up trucks for its income. With the loss of their Mazda business, Francisco Motor now faces a P1.7-billion debt from its creditor-banks. Francisco Motor also trimmed down its workforce to 400 from a high of 2,000. "We never defaulted on our payments with banks until Ford came," he says.

Receivership

Francisco Motor has also been placed under receivership to thresh out how the company could settle its obligation with banks.

Francisco says Francisco Motor also feels bad about Mazda's "conspiring with Ford" to support the latter's move to be the assembler and distributor of Mazda vehicles. He reiterates Mazda became a popular brand with the help of Francisco Motor.

Francisco Motor is currently groping as to how it could continue being in business for the sake of its remaining 400 employees.

Ford's stance, on the other hand, is that the issue with Francisco Motor has already been settled, and it is not paying the $65-million damage claim of Francisco Motor.

Francisco says the company is now in search of new projects that could keep it in business. In particular, he says Francisco Motor is considering focusing on the production of jeepneys, and eventually on their export. "At least for jeepneys, we won't be experiencing problems on foreign intervention," says Francisco.

Exporting jeepneys

He adds that Francisco Motor has received information that there is a strong demand for jeepney in Papua New Guinea and in Sierra Leone.

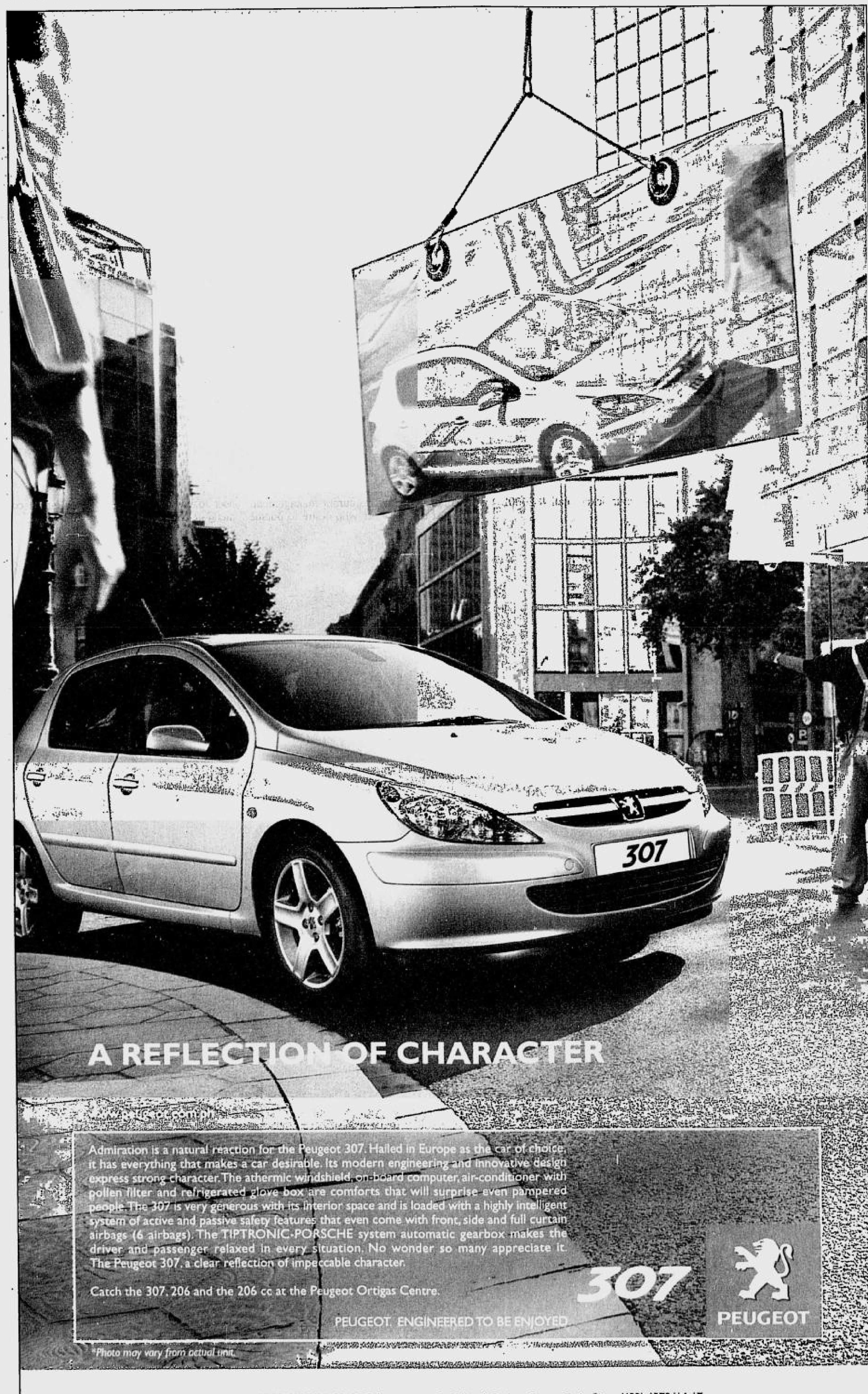
He says Francisco Motor is hoping to realize its goal of exporting jeepneys, but that the company is still in search for enough funds to finance the export project. Francisco will require at least P200 million as start-up fund to produce a decent volume of at least 1,000 units of jeepney per month.

"We heard of a demand for jeepneys from the two countries, and we are now looking for ways on where and how to source funds to service their requirements should we be chosen to be the supplier," says Francisco.

Aside from export, Francisco says the company is also proposing to the government a jeepney marketing program, whereby purchasers may be able get loans from government financial institutions to buy jeepneys. "More will be able to afford a jeepney if there will be support from GFIs, because they offer lower interest rate and longer terms of payment," he said.

He said the company is thinking of new projects, such as the above-mentioned ones, just so it the long-established family-owned company could prevent closing down.

"Despite the difficulty and financial problems we are currently experiencing, we are trying our best to stay alive. We want to stay in business," said Francisco.



Admiration is a natural reaction for the Peugeot 307. Hailed in Europe as the car of choice, it has everything that makes a car desirable. Its modern engineering and innovative design express strong character. The athermic windshield, on-board computer, air-conditioner with pollen filter and refrigerated glove box are comforts that will surprise even pampered people. The 307 is very generous with its interior space and is loaded with a highly intelligent system of active and passive safety features that even come with front, side and full curtain airbags (6 airbags). The TIPTRONIC-PORSCHE system automatic gearbox makes the driver and passenger relaxed in every situation. No wonder so many appreciate it. The Peugeot 307, a clear reflection of impeccable character.

Catch the 307, 206 and the 206 cc at the Peugeot Ortigas Centre.

PEUGEOT. ENGINEERED TO BE ENJOYED.

*Photo may vary from actual unit.

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THE PEUGEOT 307 – AN ENGINEERING REVOLUTION

Setting a new standard for the medium sized cars category, the 307 is revolutionary in both its design and technology.

The 307 is unmistakably the car of the future. Its uniquely sized windshield, extensive glass area, distinctive styling and generous luggage space comprises most of its exteriors. The 307's interior meanwhile holds a different story. Its optimum use of space makes the 307 the most generous car in its category. What's more is that the 307 is fitted with the revolutionary MMI (Multiplexing Integrated Intelligence) technology for intelligent and integrated comfort and safety – making the 307 far advanced compared to the competition. Other safety fittings on the 307 include ABS with Electronic Brake Force Distribution; front, side and full curtain airbags (6 airbags) active front seatbacks, a TIPTRONIC-PORSCHE System sequential automatic gearbox, retractable steering column, and pyrotechnic seatbelts with force limiters among others.

The 307 is the perfect example of Peugeot's commitment to the environment. New generation polymers, alloys, and natural fabrics were used to make this car – making 90% of its total weight recyclable. The 307 is a leap forward to Peugeot's goal of making 100% recyclable cars in the near future.

Peugeot has indeed raised the technological ante more than a notch higher. A jury of 55 professional journalists from 21 European nations has agreed that this is the Car of the Year for 2002. And it is clear to see why – the 307 is an engineering genius, truly ahead of its time and perfect for today's fast paced and modern lifestyle.

In the Philippines, Filipinos can now enjoy what the 307 has to offer as AutoFrance Philippines, Inc., the exclusive distributor of Peugeot cars, brings in the 307 together with two other models, the 206 and the 206 cc. Drive over to the Peugeot Ortigas Centre and see for yourself these 3 French beauties. For more information, visit www.peugeot.com.ph.

ADVT.

BUSINESS*Monday*

Get off your high horse leadership

MAPping the Future

By Ma. Carmen Alcuaz-Reyes

ON Nov. 4, the MAP's CEO Conference focuses on New Ideas to Oust Old Mind Sets - solutions in tough times. The session entitled "Get off your High Horse Leadership" evokes images of conquering knights riding high on their stallions ready to take over a city.

Closer to home, some highly placed politicians comfortable in their AUVs, complete with back-up ambulance, harass lesser mortals pushing their way through the maddening traffic with their motorcycle escorts and blowing sirens.

Still higher, we witness our own President on TV proclaiming to the Abu Sayyaf "I will crush you," or US President George W. Bush launching his attack on Iraq for the sake of world peace and American supremacy. They all smack of arrogance and a sense of superiority.

We have seen them all - people who invoke title and position as a badge of honor, filled with self importance and a feeling of entitlement, know it all and brook no questions or contrary opinions, hog the limelight, manage and control through fear, exercise power through reward and punishment and are above the law and must have their way.

Many are admired and successful but shunned and feared as well. They are not bad people, they just have the wrong paradigms and a blurred perception of reality.

Do they deserve to be called leaders? What is leadership, anyway?

The leadership gurus—among them Gardner, Greenleaf, Maxwell, De Pree, Lee, and Covey all tell us that leadership is an interpersonal process. As John Gardner puts it "In a sense, leadership is conferred by followers."

There are many approaches to understanding leadership just as there are many paradigms of leadership. The more traditional approaches have focused on the history, environment, traits and behavior of a leader.

The leadership gurus tell us that leadership is an interpersonal process. As John Gardner puts it, "In a sense, leadership is conferred by followers."

"High horse leadership" neglects the followers and the institution. It is leader-centered, self-centered.

Therefore, leaders must dismount and walk with the people. It is the only way to know their needs, identify the gifts and talents they bring to the workplace and harness the commitment and enthusiasm so vital to fulfilling the institution's mission and goals.

Leaders must remember to think of their followers like volunteers. They must remember too that the goals of the organization are best met when the goals of the people in the organization are met at the same time. These two sets of goals are seldom the same and it is the leader's job to combine them.

Followers look to their leaders for inspiration, direction, support, accountability and recognition.

As volunteers, followers may ask their leaders these questions:

What can I expect from you?

Can I achieve my goals by following you?

Will I reach my potential by working with you?

Do you have the self-confidence and trust to let me do my job?

Can I entrust my future to you?

Have you bothered to prepare yourself for leadership?

What do you believe?

Will you walk your talk?

Why should I follow you?

The answers to these questions are promises leaders make and must be kept. In keeping their promises, leaders serve their followers.

As Max De Pree puts it, "Leadership is a position of servanthood."

His own list of qualities of leadership include: Integrity, Vulnerability i.e., trusting in the abilities of other people, Discernment, Awareness of the Human Spirit, Courage in Relationships, Sense of Humor, Intellectual Energy, Curiosity, Respect for the Future, Regard for the Present, and Understanding of the Past, Predictability, Breadth, Comfort with Ambiguity and Presence.

MAPPING/B3-3

Top 10 etiquette questions

Goodness Graces

Lia S. Bernardo

Dining etiquette

1. WHAT should you do with your napkin when you are finished eating?

The napkin should not be refolded but should simply be picked up by the center and placed loosely to the left side of the place setting. If you are at a buffet and are refilling your plate, the napkin should be folded in half and left on your seat. You pick it up as you return to the table, after you have put down your plate, and then take your seat.

2. Should the person to whom a toast is proposed remain silent or respond?

The person who is toasted should always respond with a toast. It is very rude and unsophisticated to remain silent. However, it is important to remember that if a toast is offered to you, you raise your glass, but you should not drink to yourself.

3. If I am left-handed, is it acceptable to move my drinking glass to the left side of the place setting?

No, all liquids should always remain on the right side of the place setting while all solids should remain to the left. This is so you will not be guilty of taking your neighbors salad or bread plate or drinking from the wrong glass during dinner.

4. Can I place my bag, keys, or cellular phone on the table?

No. Nothing at all should be placed on the table. A small purse should be kept on your lap and a larger placed on the floor, some people think it is unlucky to put their purses on the floor, in which case, it can be placed behind you, in between your back and the chair. Keys, phone or any other personal items should be kept in your pocket. Remember to keep your cellular phone on silent mode while dining out whether it is a business or social function.

5. Is it appropriate to enter a dining chair from either the left or right side?

To avoid confusion one should always move to the right of their chair and enter it from their left side.

Business etiquette

6. Is it acceptable for me to give out my business cards to senior executives at a business or social function?

No, a junior executive should never give or request a card from a senior executive. If a senior executive should ask for your card only then would you give it out. It also goes without saying that a junior executive should never ask for a senior executive's cellular phone number or private office lines. Nor should a junior executive invite a senior executive to a business lunch or dinner.

7. Should a telephone caller ever take priority over someone with an appointment?

Never. The person with the appointment should take priority during the entire meeting. Telephone callers should be told you are not available and asked to leave a message. Just make sure that you return the call within a day.

8. When I enter someone's office does it matter where I sit?

Always select a chair where you can sit erect and keep both feet flat on the floor. An arm chair is preferable because you can rest an arm and project a confident and relaxed look. Avoid the sofa.

9. Do I always have to address people by their titles?

Bear in mind that valid titles, unless you have a royal title, are generally limited to Mr., Ms. Mrs. Dr. and members of the clergy. Attorney is not a valid title, neither is engineer, chairman or the like.

Titles must always be used for heads of state, politicians and ambassadors. Politicians are addressed as the honorable (name)—Congressman of Leyte, Mayor of Cavite, Senator of the Republic of the Philippines, etc. The president is referred to as Her·Excellency, so are Ambassadors.

When addressing invitations or correspondence, the answer is yes, you should always use titles in their proper form. While in social and business functions it gets tricky.

The Philippines has a culture that puts great importance on titles. As such, know that although in most countries, titles such as architect, engineer, chairman, attorney, etc are not generally used, one should use it in the Philippines.

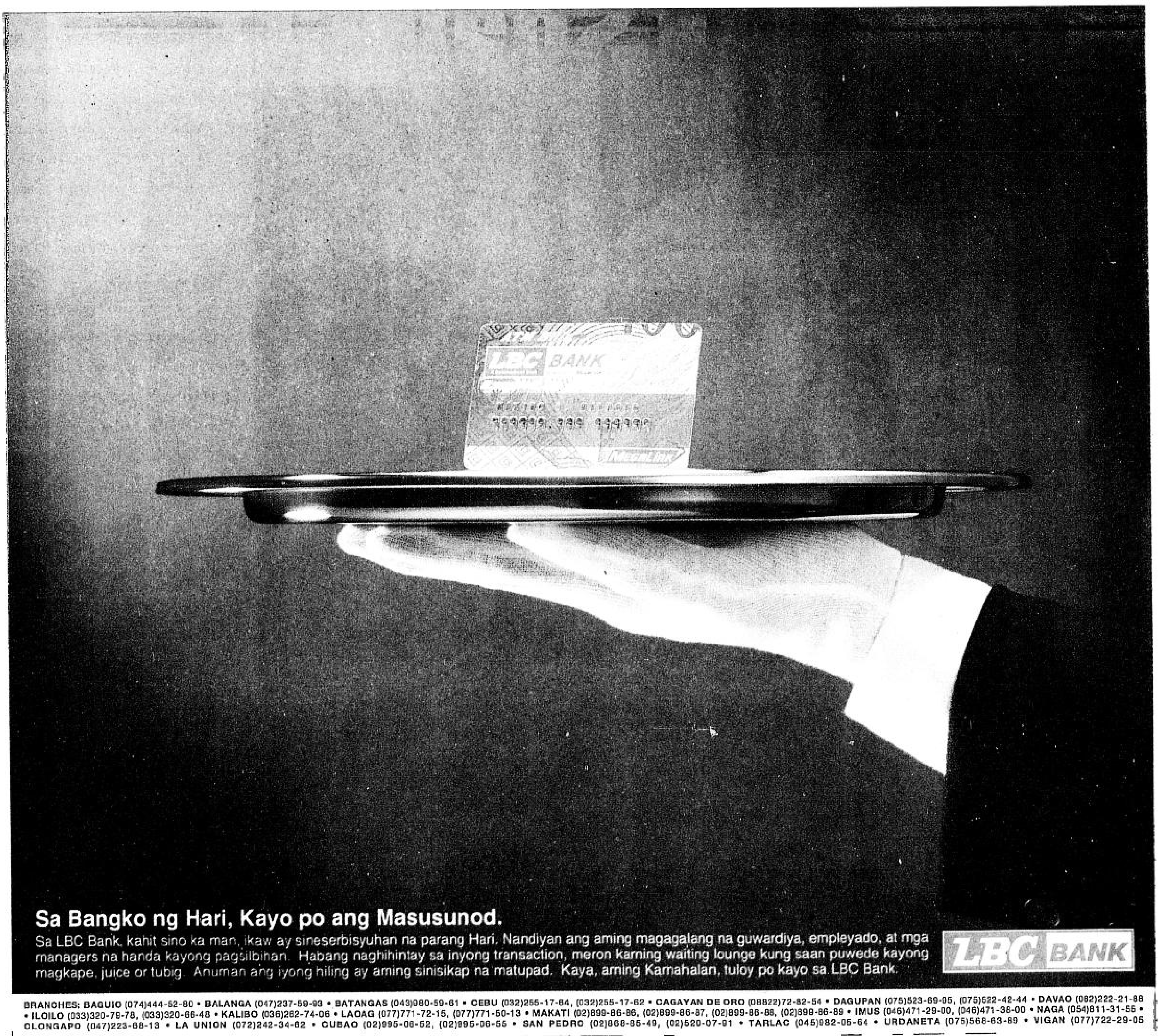
This is where culture takes precedence over the internationally accepted rules of etiquette.

10. Is it acceptable to comment on someone's appearance if it is a positive compliment?

In today's corporate culture it is wise to restrict any comments to work related topics only. Do not make any comments about someone's physical appearance.

Any comments on someone's physical appearance may be misconstrued even if it is a positive comment.

Remember always that there is a thick line between business and social communication, what may be deemed socially acceptable may not be acceptable in the business environment. *Feedback at etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com*



Sa Bangko ng Hari, Kayo po ang Masusunod.

Sa LBC Bank, kahit sino ka man, ikaw ay sineserbisyuhan na parang Hari. Nandiyan ang aming magagalang na guwardiya, empleyado, at mga managers na handa kayong pagsilbihan. Habang naghihintay sa inyong transaction, meron kaming waiting lounge kung saan puwede kayong magkape, juice or tubig. Anuman ang iyong hiling ay aming sinisikap na matupad. Kaya, aming Kamahalan, tuloy po kayo sa LBC Bank.

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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Fiscal protests Zsa Zsa's annulment

By Marinel R. Cruz

SINGER and television host Zsa Zsa Padilla might still not be able to marry Comedy King Dolphy early next year.

A Parañaque City fiscal last week filed a motion urging the court to reconsider its decision in granting the annulment of Padilla's marriage to her husband, Modesto Tatlonghari.

Fiscal Gil Sabedia urged the court to reconsider its decision on grounds that Padilla is "not a victim of matrimonial tragedy" because she is involved in an "adulterous relationship" with Dolphy Quizon.

Judge Helen Ricafort of Parañaque City RTC Branch 260 last August granted the annulment of Padilla's marriage to Tatlonghari, the father of Padilla's daughter, singer Karylle.

In 1990, Padilla made headlines by eloping with Dolphy who is 36 years her senior. The couple now have two daughters, Nicole and Zia.

Quizon has 17 children by five different women, none of whom he married.

Sabedia said Padilla violated public policy and the moral code when she entered into a relationship with Dolphy while she was still legally married to Tatlonghari.

In seeking the annulment of her marriage, Padilla cited Tatlonghari's psychological incapacity.

"He who comes to court must come with clean hands," Sabedia told INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday.

"(Padilla's) adulterous relationship with Dolphy makes her psychologically incapacitated, not (Tatlonghari)."

Sabedia added that Ricafort merely considered the favorable opinion of psychologist Natividad Dayap and disregarded the doctor's findings that "(Padilla) also is in strong need for counseling."

The fiscal said nullifying Padilla's marriage to Tatlonghari could start a precedent to unrestricted and indiscriminate filing of annulment cases.

"This would destroy the image of the family that we so cherished and tried to protect," he said.

Padilla and Quizon reportedly plan to get married either in San Francisco or Los Angeles on Dec. 8.

Tatlonghari is said to have found a new partner.

Deutsche Post World Net
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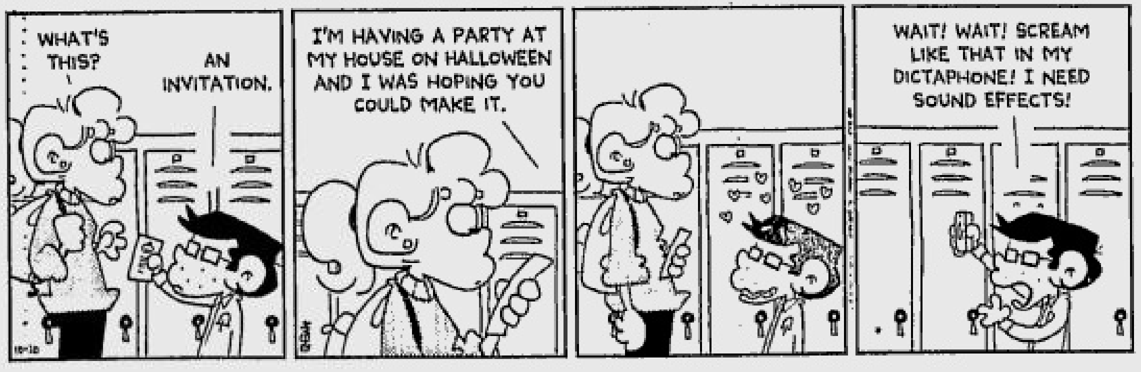
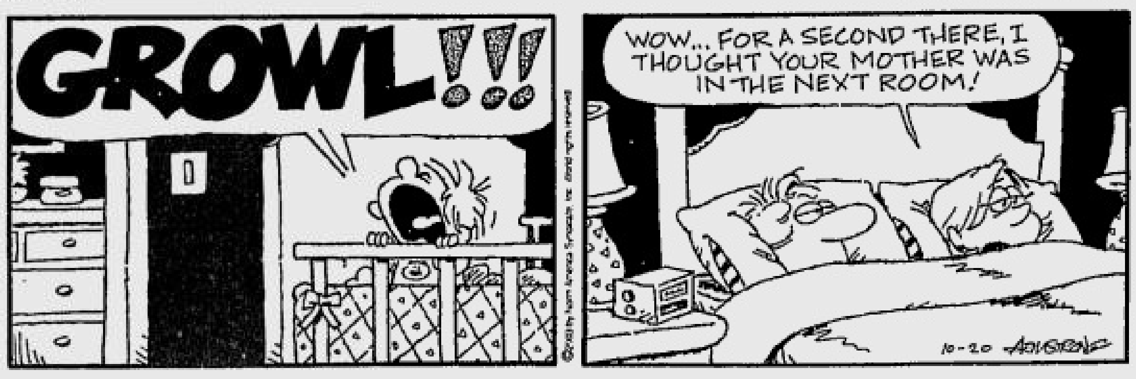
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S THIS?
AN INVITATION.
I'M HAVING A PARTY AT MY HOUSE ON HALLOWEEN AND I WAS HOPING YOU COULD MAKE IT.
WAIT! WAIT! SCREAM LIKE THAT IN MY DICTAPHONE! I NEED SOUND EFFECTS!

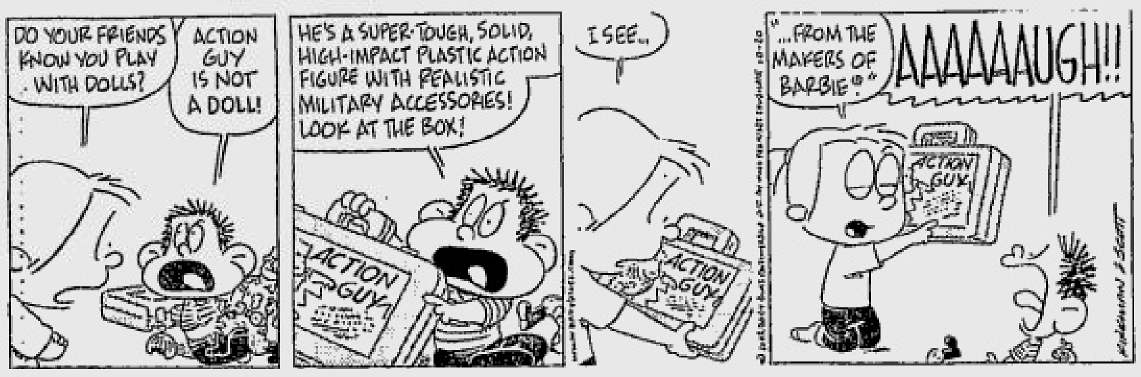
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


GROWL!!!
WOW... FOR A SECOND THERE, I THOUGHT YOUR MOTHER WAS IN THE NEXT ROOM!
10-20 ARMSTRONG

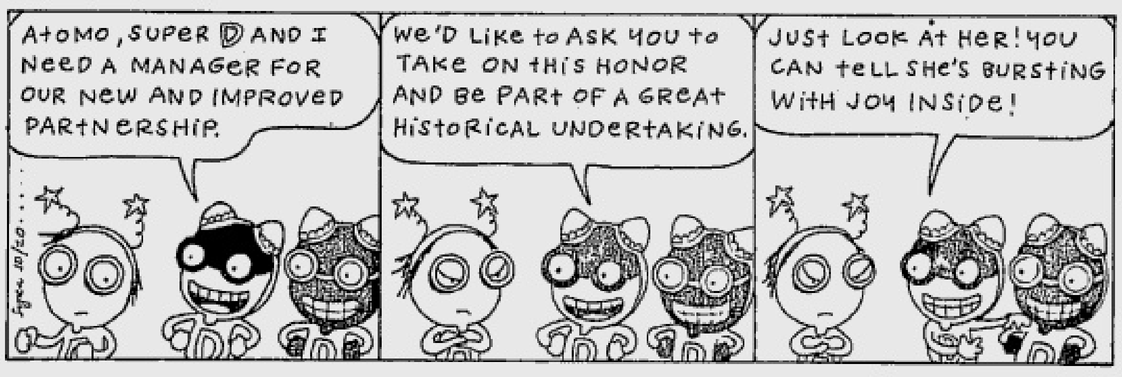
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DO YOUR FRIENDS KNOW YOU PLAY WITH DOLLS?
ACTION GUY IS NOT A DOLL!
HE'S A SUPER-TOUGH, SOLID, HIGH-IMPACT PLASTIC ACTION FIGURE WITH REALISTIC MILITARY ACCESSORIES! LOOK AT THE BOX!
ACTION GUY
I SEE..
"...FROM THE MAKERS OF BARBIE®"
AAAAAAUGH!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Atomo, Super D and I need a manager for our new and improved partnership.
We'd like to ask you to take on this honor and be part of a great historical undertaking.
Just look at her! You can tell she's bursting with joy inside!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a shrewd, logical, businesslike mind. You know how to use the resources available to you. Your influence over others is so strong that you might even start a trend or a style. Despite your public life, you have a very contrasting personal world. This year could be one of the best, luckiest years of your life.

Birthdate of: Viggo Mortensen, actor; Tom Petty, musician; Dannii Minogue, singer/actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day for any kind of real estate deal or financial transaction connected with your family or home. The resources of others can help you now. Be open to offers.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Serious discussions about day-to-day activities can help you a lot today. Both parties are in a serious, cooperative mood. Be open to all communication.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You find it very easy to concentrate on the job today. You are ready to work hard today for tomorrow's rewards. Discipline comes easily to you now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Serious discussions with children and young people are fruitful and productive. Not only can you give advice to young minds, but they can teach you something as well.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Family discussions related to long-term future plans will go extremely well today. If you buy something for your home or a family member, it will have a long-term benefit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You don't mind applying yourself to detailed, fussy work today. You have the patience for this sort of thing now. You're in the mood to do careful research.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an excellent day for business and financial transactions. Whatever you do will be prudent and wise. Someone older or more experienced can give you sound financial advice today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Pleasant discussions about serious topics are likely to take place today. You will find that you have an above-average concern about religion or political matters, especially as reported in the media.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might get a bright idea today that actually promotes your long life! Think about how you can improve your health. (This can have a long-term benefit for you in the future.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day to discuss artistic business with others. Similarly, it's an excellent day to give or receive advice from others. Listen to wise ones.

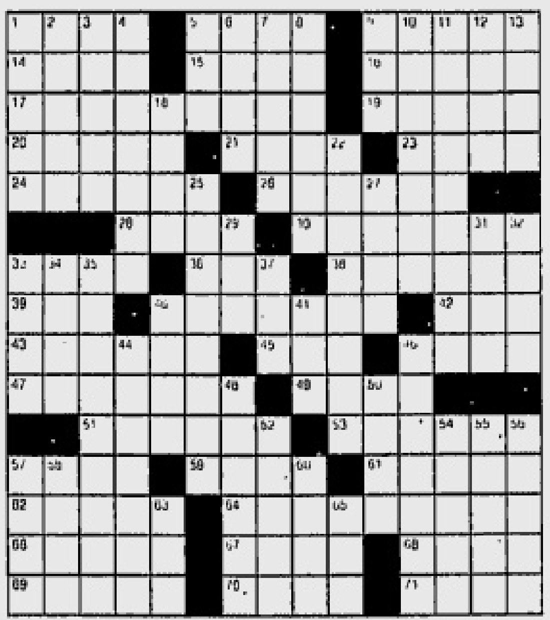
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You find it easy to put duty and obligation first today. Whatever you attempt, you'll want to do an excellent job, because your standards are high now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to finalize plans for education or travel. Your ability to handle details is excellent. Your concentration and focus are keen.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Zenith
5 Consequently
9 Word with point or length
14 1950s sci-fi classic
15 Make headway
16 Find fault
17 Hornswoggle
19 Marks time
20 Clamorous
21 Mild cheese
23 Without: Fr.
24 Like some salads
26 Egyptian talisman
28 Iditarod sight
30 "The Lord of the Rings," e.g.
33 Term of endearment
36 Cut (off)
38 Couple with sixteen arms?
39 Spanish river
40 Imagined threat
42 Weaken
43 Delights in
45 Carried the day
46 Mamie's predecessor
47 Formidable opponent
49 Baja buck
51 Dine alfresco?
53 Job site for a masseuse
57 Loamy fertilizer
59 Three squared
61 Sore points
62 From the top
64 Roadblock, of a sort
66 Outrageous, slangily
67 Siouan tribe
68 Baobab or banyan
69 __ on (incited)
70 Jonathan Larsen play
71 Gull cousin

DOWN
1 Taking your swings
2 Single-named singer
3 Office notes
4 Diplomatic office
5 Conceit
6 Demolish
7 Coats with gold leaf
8 Kind of play
9 Department of Justice agcy.
10 Veteran seafarer
11 Local lockup
12 Grace finale
13 A smaller portion
18 Hurler Hershiser
22 Like Robinson Crusoe
25 False belief
27 Puerto __
29 Follow persistently
31 Univ. numbers
32 Nervous putter's malady
33 Fiber source
34 Coadjutant
35 Outback flier
37 Handle clumsily
40 Outdo
41 Jazz style
44 See the light
46 Protesters' tactic
48 Beau
50 Volvo rival
52 Govt. bond
54 Prop (up)
55 Pan of fiction
56 Very wan
57 Wizard
58 Highly excited
60 North Carolina university
63 Silent yes
65 Tennis do-over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By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL

10/20/03

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

D	I	S	L	O	D	G	E	■	H	A	S	P	E	D
E	M	P	E	R	O	R	S	■	I	N	C	O	M	E
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P	A	N	E	■	E	N	A	M	E	L	W	A	R	E
S	C	A	R	P	■	S	P	O	R	E	■	D	A	R
E	T	C	H	E	D	■	E	O	N	■	C	E	L	T
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R	A	C	E	■	O	R	C	■	N	E	C	K	E	R
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S	T	A	N	C	E	■	N	A	T	I	V	I	S	T
H	E	R	D	E	D	■	E	L	E	M	E	N	T	S

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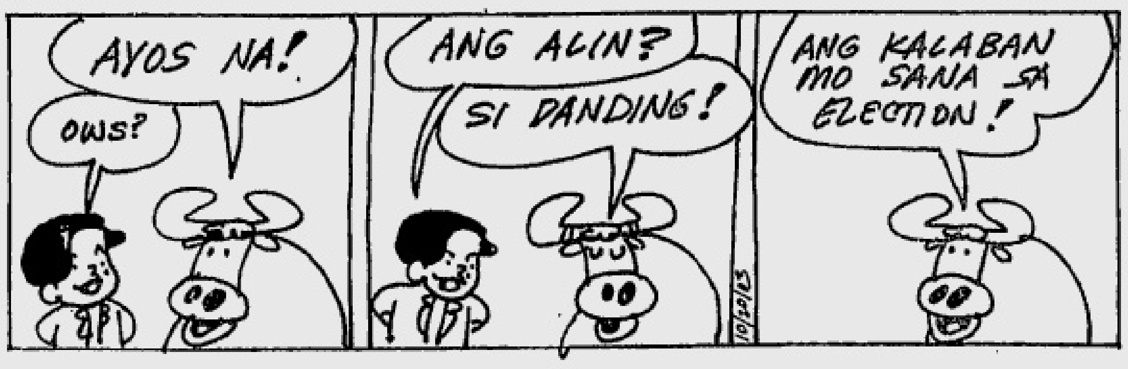
10/20/03

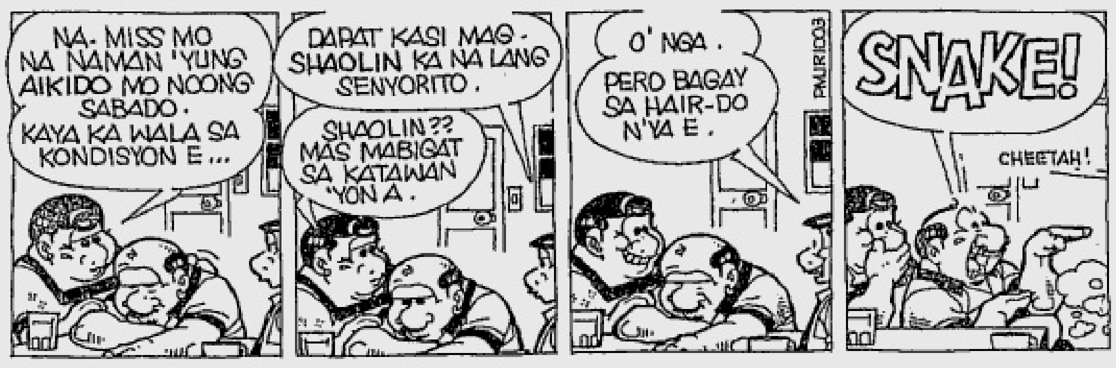
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AYOS NA!
OWS?
ANG ALIN?
SI DANDING!
ANG KALABAN MO SANA SA ELECTION!
10/20/03

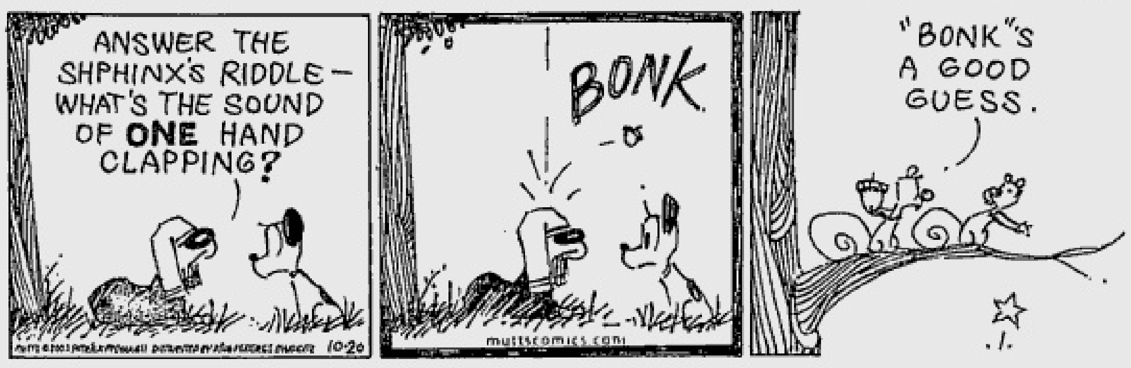
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NA-MISS MO NA NAMAN 'YUNG AIKIDO MO NOONG SABADO. KAYA KA WALA SA KONDISYON E...
DAPAT KASI MAG-SHAOLIN KA NA LANG SENYORITO.
SHAOLIN?? MAS MABIGAT SA KATAWAN 'YON A.
O' NGA.
PERO BAGAY SA HAIR-DO N'YA E.
SNAKE!
CHEETAH!

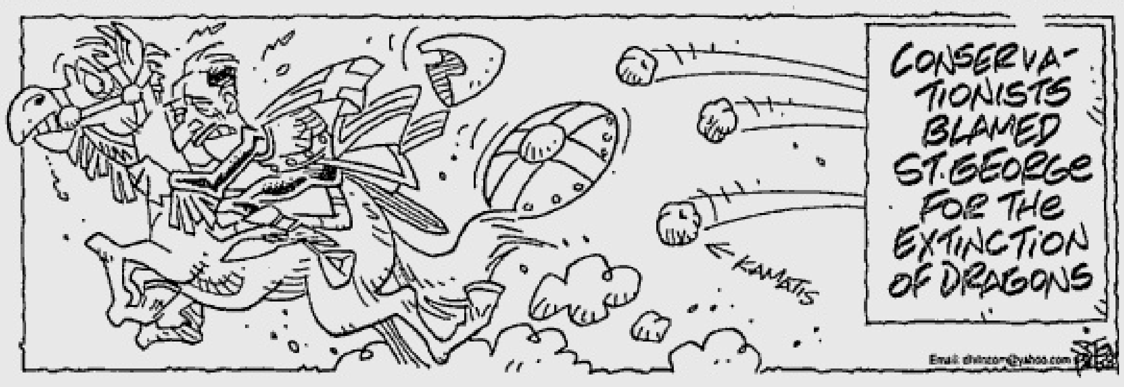
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ANSWER THE SHPHINX'S RIDDLE — WHAT'S THE SOUND OF ONE HAND CLAPPING?
BONK
"BONK"'S A GOOD GUESS.
mutts comics.com
10-20

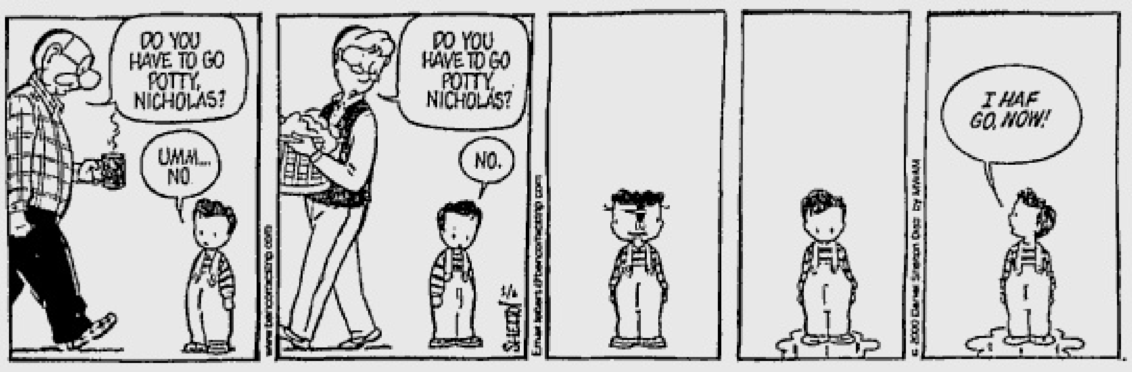
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


CONSERVATIONISTS BLAMED ST. GEORGE FOR THE EXTINCTION OF DRAGONS
KAMATIS

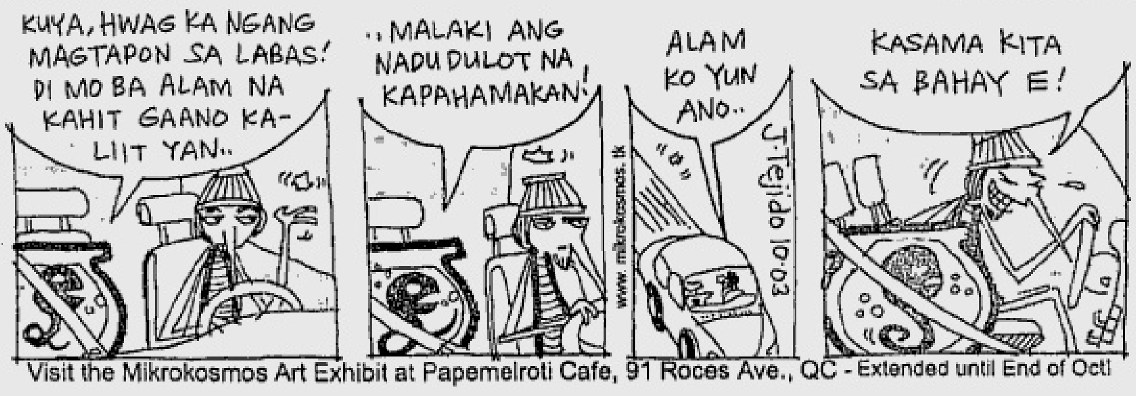
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DO YOU HAVE TO GO POTTY, NICHOLAS?
UMM... NO.
DO YOU HAVE TO GO POTTY, NICHOLAS?
NO.
I HAF GO, NOW!

MIKROKOSMOS

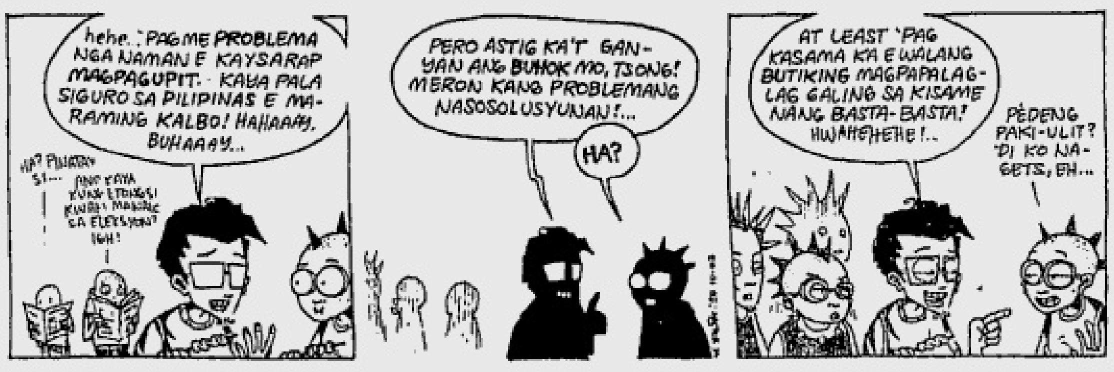
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KUYA, HWAG KA NGANG MAGTAPON SA LABAS! DI MO BA ALAM NA KAHIT GAANO KALIIT YAN..
..MALAKI ANG NADUDULOT NA KAPAHAMAKAN!
ALAM KO YUN ANO..
KASAMA KITA SA BAHAY E!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 10.03

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Extended until End of Oct!

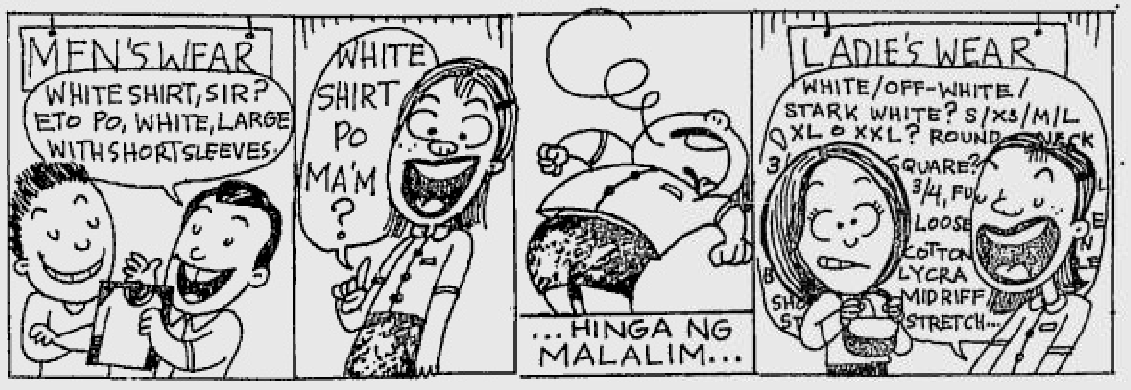
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hehe.. PAG ME PROBLEMA NGA NAMAN E KAYSARAP MAGPAGUPIT. KAYA PALA SIGURO SA PILIPINAS E MARAMING KALBO! HAHAAAY. BUHAAAY...
PERO ASTIG KA'T GANYAN ANG BUHOK MO, TSONG! MERON KANG PROBLEMANG NASOSOLUSYUNAN!...
HA?
AT LEAST 'PAG KASAMA KA E WALANG BUTIKING MAGPAPALAGLAG GALING SA KISAME NANG BASTA-BASTA! HWAHEHEHE!..
PEDENG PAKI-ULIT? 'DI KO NAGETS, EH...

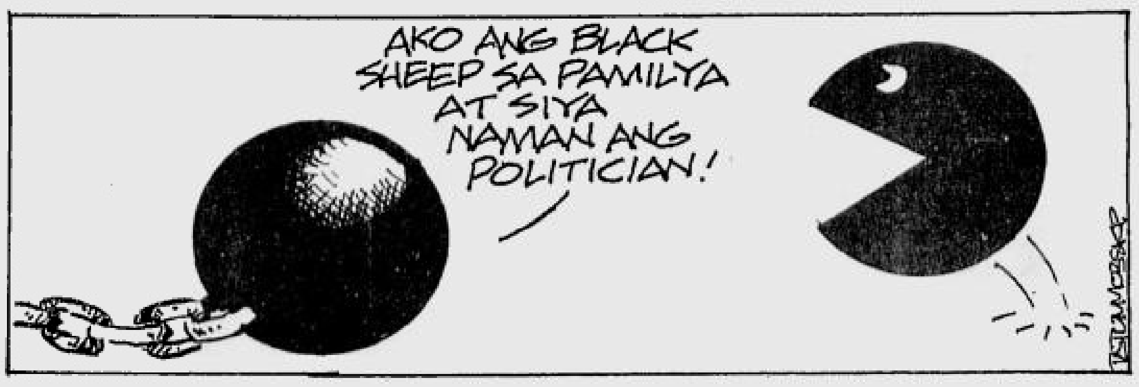
FURRY LOGIC

BY SUZIE AND CALVIN


MEN'S WEAR
WHITE SHIRT, SIR? ETO PO, WHITE, LARGE WITH SHORT SLEEVES.
WHITE SHIRT PO MA'M?
...HINGA NG MALALIM...
LADIE'S WEAR
WHITE/OFF-WHITE/STARK WHITE? S/XS/M/L XL O XXL? ROUND NECK SQUARE? 3/4, FULL LOOSE COTTON LYCRA MIDRIFF STRETCH...

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AKO ANG BLACK SHEEP SA PAMILYA AT SIYA NAMAN ANG POLITICIAN!

SHOW TIME

Lani at Mandarin Oriental

ASIA'S Nightingale Lani Misalucha will once again grace the stage of the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental for a special evening of unbridled entertainment on Nov. 6.

Lani will deliver the best Crossover songs to thrill her countless followers.

Early in her career, Lani was a lounge singer in hotels and bars.

She became a band member and then a multiplex singer for the hit songs of Whitney Houston, Celine Dion, Barbra Streisand and Mariah Carey.

She got her break in 1996 when she recorded the single "Somebody Warm Like Me" which became an overnight hit.

Several award-winning performances in the Metropop Competition and Asia Song Festival followed, and in 1999, Lani was on her way to stardom with her second album, which became a gold record, with hits like "Tunay na Mahal and a remake of "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me."

That same year, Lani also played the lead part in the musical "Rama at Sita."

She also won as Best Female Pop Performer in Katha Awards and Best Female Recording Performer in the Awit Awards.

Lani's first major solo concert, "The Crossover Live Tour" in 2001 filled the Big Dome.

The concert spawned a live album, featuring more than two hours of songs that include her version of the songs of the country's top singers like Pilita Corrales, Kuh Ledesma, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Sharon Cuneta, Jaya, and Regine Velasquez.

Unlike other singers, Lani can tackle a wide range of repertoire that includes opera arias, dance hits, R&B, and a medley of Whitney Houston hits.

Recently, Lani had a slew of successful performances in the US.

She also released another album, called "Loving You."

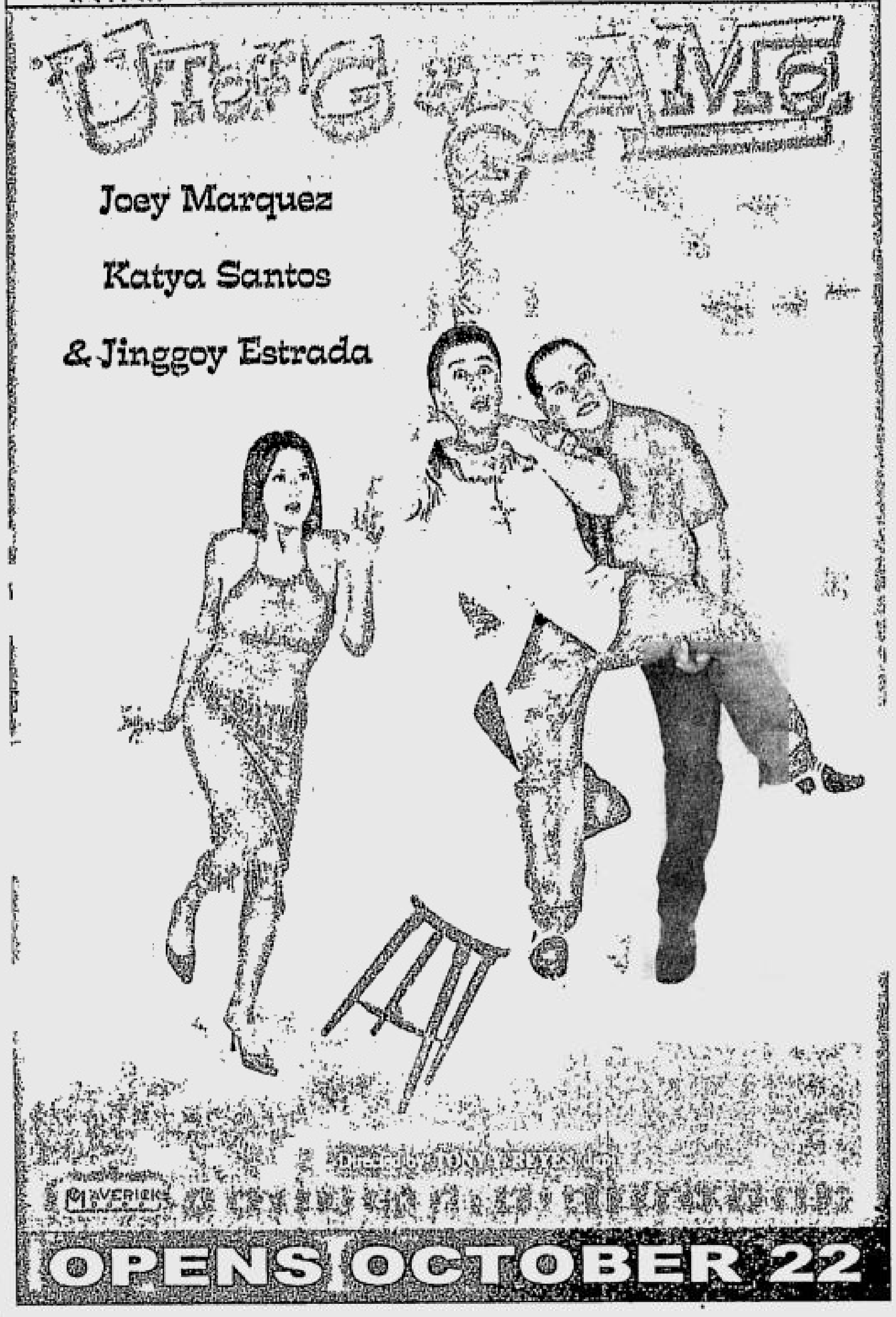
For her Captain's Bar show, Lani has prepared a heartwarming repertoire that will showcase her versatility as a performer.

Gerard Salonga is musical director of the show.

Joining Lani at the Captain's Bar are the vocal quartet The Opera, the R&B group 604 and soulful singer and composer Marielle.

For ticket inquiries, call the Crossover office at 712-9755 or 712-9764 and Captain's Bar at 750-8888.

MISALUCHA



Celebrity Premieres today at SM Megamall Cinema 9 (7:30 p.m.)

MTRCB ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.

Utang ng Ama

Joey Marquez

Katya Santos

& Jinggoy Estrada

OPENS OCTOBER 22

Stargazing at Glorietta 1 Cinemas

AYALA CINEMAS

presents

Katya Santos

Star of "UTANG NG AMA"

Have your picture taken & signed by KATYA!
Plus win exciting prizes!

OCTOBER 22 - 6:30 PM
GLORIETTA 1 CINEMA LOBBY
AYALA CENTER, MAKATI CITY

UTANG NG AMA opens Oct. 22 in Glorietta 1 Cinema

THE ONLY THING WHITE IS THE HOUSE
HAIL TO THE CHIEF OF COMEDY

"CHRIS ROCK rules!
— Fox News Channel

HEAD of STATE

Chris Rock stars as Mays Gilliam, a Washington D.C. neighborhood Alderman, who's about to be red-lined out of his job. But after the untimely death of the party frontrunner, Gilliam is plucked from obscurity and thrust into the limelight as his party's nominee – for President of the United States.

OPENS OCT. 22 EXCLUSIVELY
AT GLORIETTA 4 &
GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

"HILARIOUS!"
— Washington Post

United International Pictures VIVA AYALA CINEMAS

Pelikula
10.16-26

AYALA CINEMAS

Titulo
En Construccion
El Ultimo Viaje De Robert Rylands
Martin Hache
El Bola
La Comunidad
Sin Verguenza
It's For You
Silvia Prieto

Spanish Film Festival

For inquiries, pls. cal 752-7872

ALL DIGITAL SOUND AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 FREAKY FRIDAY	1 UNDERWORLD	ArtFilm 1 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 MATCHSTICK MEN 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00, 11:30	THX 1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	2 THE SUSPECT	2 FREAKY FRIDAY 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:05 11:15	2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
3 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 1:50 4:00 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV 14 15 21 22 28 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 UNDERWORLD 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00, 11:30	3 MATCHSTICK MEN
4 BUGBOG SARADO	4 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE SUSPECT 1:20, 3:50 6:20 8:50, 11:20	4 UNDERWORLD
	5 HOW TO DEAL		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 FREAKY FRIDAY 1:30, 3:30 5:30, 7:30 9:30 11:30	5 THE SUSPECT
	6 FREAKY FRIDAY			
	7 MATCHSTICK MEN			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

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MOVIE GUIDE
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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	UNDERWORLD
2 (SDDS)	GIGLI
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE
4 GOLD (DTS ES)	MATCHSTICK MEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	THE SUSPECT
6 GOLD (SDDS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	SPY KIDS
8	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
9	BUGBOG SARADO
10	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	TREK
3	PRINSIPE AT SERENA

Starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	VISIBLE SECRET
2	BOMBA QUEEN
3	THE SUSPECT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
5	BUGBOG SARADO

METROPOLIS Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	PILYA
2	VISIBLE SECRET
3	UNDERWORLD
4	BUGBOG SARADO
5	FREAKY FRIDAY
6	MATCHSTICK MEN

M Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1	
2	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
2	ASBOOBS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL. INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 770-74-21

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	BLOCK THUNDER
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	VISIBLE SECRET 2
6	BUGBOG SARADO
7 (DTS)	MATCHSTICK MEN
8 (SDDS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
9 (DOLBY)	THE SUSPECT

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3	BUGBOG SARADO
4 (SDDS)	UNDERWORLD
5	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
6 (DOLBY)	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
7 (DTS)	VISIBLE SECRET 2
8	KATAS
9	KISKISAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
2 (SDDS)	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
3 (DTS)	BUGBOG SARADO
4 (DOLBY)	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
5	UNDERWORLD

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 (DTS)	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
4	PILYA
5 (SDDS)	UNDERWORLD

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
Lords	MASARAP MAINIT
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	FREAKY FRIDAY
3	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
4	UNDERWORLD

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	MATCHSTICK MEN
2	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
3	FREAKY FRIDAY
4	BUGBOG SARADO
5	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
2	TREK

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	UNDERWORLD
4 (SDDS)	THE SUSPECT
5 (DTS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
6	AMERICAN PIE
7	MATCHSTICK MEN

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
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1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	PILYA
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DTS)	FREAKY FRIDAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2 (DTS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE
4	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 (DOLBY)	FREAKY FRIDAY
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE
4	BUGBOG SARADO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HOW TO DEAL
2	MEDALLION
3 (DOLBY)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	FREDDY VS. JASON
3 (DOLBY)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 (THX)	HOW TO DEAL

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	FREDDY VS. JASON
2 (DTS)	HOW TO DEAL
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BUGBOG SARADO
2	MOTEL
3 (DTS)	GOLDEN BULLET
4	DARK DANCER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	DARK WATER
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DTS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
4	PILYA
5	TAKE MY BODY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	KISKISAN
2	PILYA
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	FREAKY FRIDAY
2	MR. BONES
3	BUGBOG SARADO

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	FREDDY VS JASON
2	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 (DTS)	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4 (DOLBY)	HOW TO DEAL

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	PILYA
2	KATAS
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	KATAS
2	MEDALLION
3	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4	AMERICAN PIE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	FREAKY FRIDAY
2	AMERICAN PSYCHO
3 (DTS ES)	AMERICAN PIE
4	TREK

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1	AMERICAN PSYCHO
2	WALKING UP IN RENO
3 (DOLBY)	FREAKY FRIDAY
4 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

Festival Supermall
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

VISIBLE SECRET II

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295453

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 UNDERWORLD
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
6 MATCHSTICKMEN
7 VISIBLE SECRET 2
8 THE SUSPECT

SM CITY CEBU
2313676

1 THE MEDALLION
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 TAKE MY BODY
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 KISKISAN
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

SM CITY BACOOR
4173068

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 UNDERWORLD
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 THE TREK
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7138065

1 UNDERWORLD
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 INNER SENSES
6 BUGBOG SARADO

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 THE SUSPECT
3 UNDERWORLD
4 FREAKY FRIDAY

SM BICUTAN
7763055

1 UNDERWORLD
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING

SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS
Nov. 28

SM STA. MESA
7149522 • 7165416

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 THE SUSPECT
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 BUGBOG SARADO
5 UNDERWORLD
6 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
9 MATCHSTICKMEN
10 INNER SENSES

SM SOUTHMALL
8056088

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 UNDERWORLD
3 MATCHSTICKMEN
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 DEADLINE BEIRUT
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
7 BUGBOG SARADO
8 THE SUSPECT
9 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
2 VISIBLE SECRET 2
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 THE SUSPECT
5 MATCHSTICKMEN
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 UNDERWORLD
8 FREAKY FRIDAY
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
11 INNER SENSES
12 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

SM CITY DAVAO
2976960

1 once upon a time in mexico
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 THE MEDALLION
4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5 ALEX & EMMA
6 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108577-80

1 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4 THE MEDALLION

SM MEGAMALL
6331906 • 6339401

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6388888
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 RESERVED
5 MATCHSTICKMEN
6 THE SUSPECT
7 BUGBOG SARADO
8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
9 HOW TO DEAL
10 UNDERWORLD
11 VISIBLE SECRET 2
12 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 THE SUSPECT
2 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY ILOILO
3300432

1 KATAS
2 RESERVED
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 THE MEDALLION
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
7 RESERVED
8 NEW BLOOD

SM CITY MANILA
5231040

1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 MAGDALENE SISTERS
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5 THE SUSPECT
6 UNDERWORLD
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
8 MATCHSTICKMEN
9 VISIBLE SECRET 2
10 INNER SENSES
11 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
12 BUGBOG SARADO

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8598884

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 HOW TO DEAL
4 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4454505

OPENS
Nov. 21

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

1 FREAKY FRIDAY
10:40 FS/11:05 MF/1:15/3:25/5:35/7:45/9:25 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:40 END

2 MATCHSTICKMEN
10:00 FS/10:15 FS/12:35/2:55/5:15/7:35/9:25 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:55 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8975 • LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee · P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday • Regular · P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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THX /All Digital

1 FREAKY FRIDAY 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30 THX
2 FREAKY FRIDAY 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
3 MATCHSTICK MEN 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 THE SUSPECT 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55
6 UNDERWORLD 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55
8 BUGBOG SARADO 11.35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
526-7185
536-7809 to 12

1 UNDERWORLD - 11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00
2 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES -11.00,12.55,2.50,4.45,6.40,8.35,10.00
3 BUGBOG SARADO - 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
4 MATCHSTICK MEN - 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
5 THE SUSPECT - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
6 FREAKY FRIDAY - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
7 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 10.20,12.20,2.20,4.20,6.20,8.10,10.00

Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193/99
682-8280

1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 UNDERWORLD
5 MATCHSTICK MEN
6 THE SUSPECT
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
8 BUGBOG SARADO

Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1 UNDERWORLD
2 MATCHSTICK MEN
3 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 THE SUSPECT
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
8 BUGBOG SARADO

Star Mills (045)675-1927 (045)961-5270		Imus (046)471-0188 / 875-5858
FREAKY FRIDAY	1	UNDERWORLD
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA/PILYA	2	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
BUGBOG SARADO	3	BUGBOG SARADO
INNER SENSES	4	FREAKY FRIDAY
UNDERWORLD	5	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	6	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

Bacolod (034)441-0458/59		Iloilo (033)336-8070 to 78
THE MEDALLION	1	FREDDY VS. JASON
AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING	2	NEW BLOOD
ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	3	HOW TO DEAL
HOW TO DEAL	4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	5	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
KISKISAN	6	THE MEDALLION

Sta. Rosa (049)837-0907		Lipa, Batangas
AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	1	THE MEDALLION
PILYA	2	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3	AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
FREAKY FRIDAY	4	KATAS
BUGBOG SARADO	5	"RUNDOWN" OPENS ON OCT. 22

Malabon
288-0985/2575

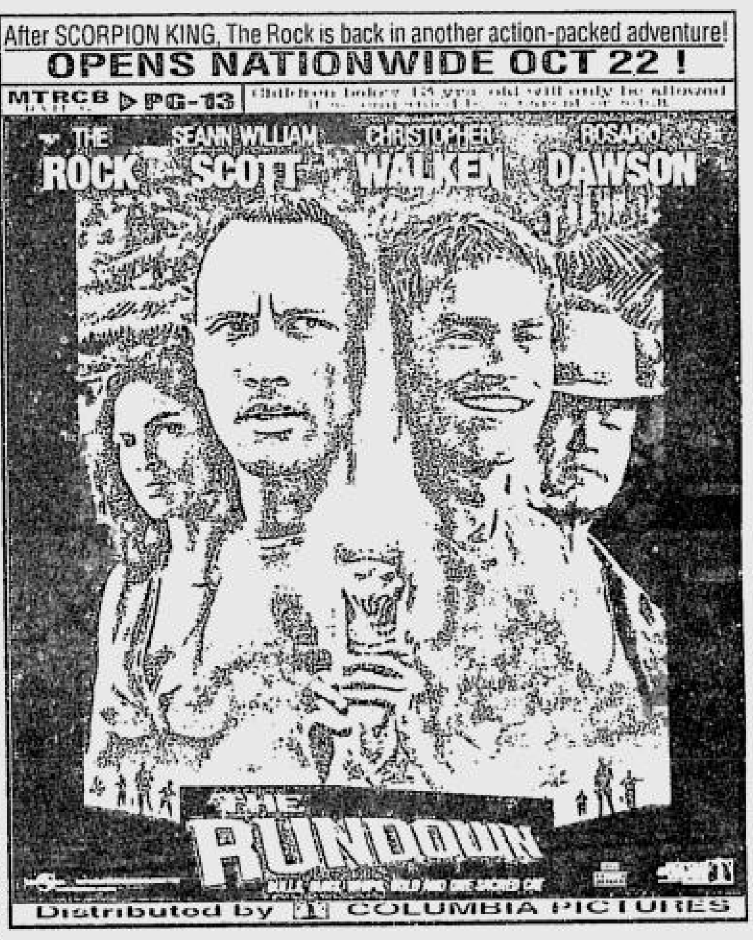
1 SUCKERS
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 UNDERWORLD
4 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

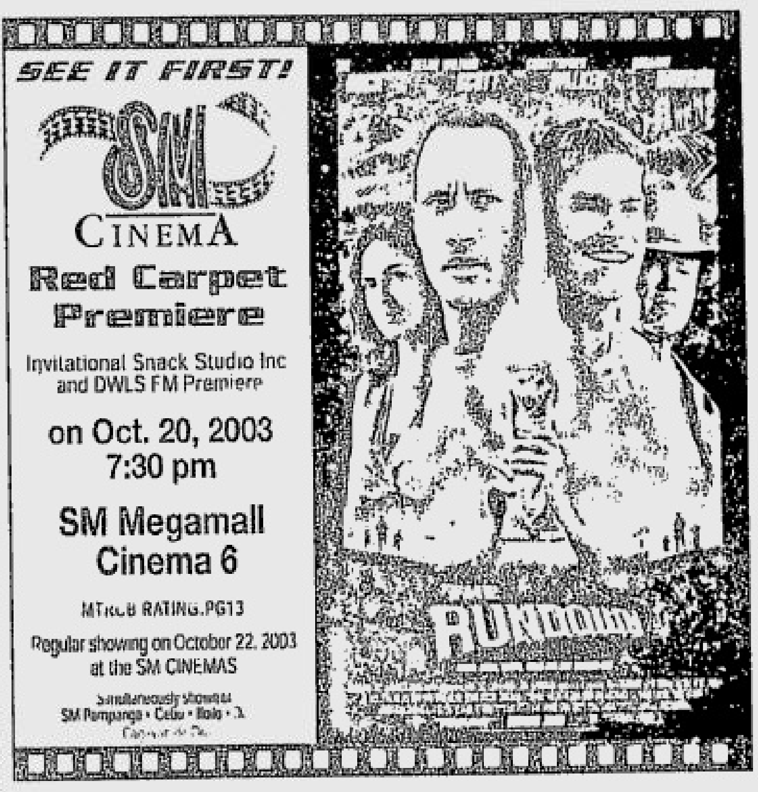
SOON TO OPEN
DASMARINAS, CAVITE
CAINTA JUNCTION

FREAKY FRIDAY
NOW SHOWING
at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

OPENS OCTOBER 22
MAGIC 89.9
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT, THE MUMMY HAS RISEN AGAIN.
SOPHIE MARCEAU
BELPHEGOR
CURSE OF THE MUMMY


After SCORPION KING, The Rock is back in another action-packed adventure!
OPENS NATIONWIDE OCT 22 !
MTRCB PG-13
THE ROCK
SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT
CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
ROSARIO DAWSON
THE RUNDOWN
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES



Red Carpet Premiere

Invitational Snack Studio Inc and DWLS FM Premiere

on Oct. 20, 2003
7:30 pm

SM Megamall
Cinema 6

MTRCB RATING.PG13

Regular showing on October 22, 2003 at the SM CINEMAS

Simultaneously shown at SM Pampanga • Cebu • Iloilo •

THEATRE-MALL
GREENHILLS

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 **FREAKY FRIDAY**
11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
GP

CINEMA 2 **SUSPECT**
11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
R13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

OCT 23	MARISSA SANCHEZ AT THE MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM
OCT 24	SARAH GERONIMO - POPSTAR "A DREAMS COME TRUE	9:00PM

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KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez

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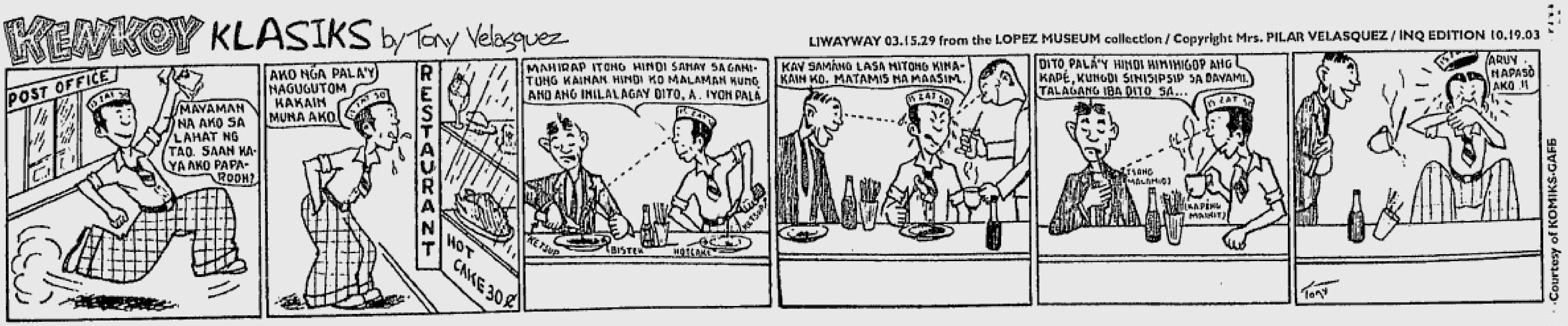
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TSONG MALAMIG
KAPENG MAINIT
ARUY. NAPASO AKO !!
Tony

Courtesy of KOMIKS-GAFB

Sexy stars Maui, Andrea talk of real life beatings

By Marinel R. Cruz

YOUNG actress Andrea del Rosario grew up seeing her mother endure beatings from her Dad.

"I attended court hearings (for the annulment of their marriage)," told INQUIRER Entertainment over lunch to promote the Viva movie "Bugbog Sarado."

"I lived most of my childhood like a human ping-pong ball," she confided.

"My three brothers and I changed schools almost every year. I even got worried whether or not I would finish one school year (in the same school)."

Andrea, 24, said she and her twin brother Adrian were only 9 when their parents separated. But in the 12 years that they lived together as a family, Andrea learned her first lessons in life.

"I learned not to be like them," she said. "I won't take beatings from anyone anymore."

Andrea said she broke up with a boyfriend when he almost strangled her during one of their intense fights.

"We had been really drunk at that time," recalled Andrea. "What he did to me ended our relationship.

"I can say that I've never been blinded by love. I always use my head."

Sexy actress Maui Taylor has a different tale to tell.

Maui, 21, who also stars in the Joel Lamangan film, admitted that she had gone out with a man who womanized, thinking she could change him.

"*Napakatanga ko* (I was so stupid)," said Maui. "I was so angry at him that during our last fight, I punched him in the face. The ring I was wearing, which was really huge, hit him in the left eye."

In an earlier fight, Maui was so angry that she also hit the guy with her cell phone, the actress said.

"To me, a cheater is not really different from a woman beater," she said. "I still see him around but I don't speak to him anymore."

But Maui admitted that she is seeing someone new.

"The new guy is not from show biz," she said. "He values his privacy a lot. I'd rather that people ask me about the movie (instead of him)."

In "Bugbog Sarado," Maui plays Ophelia, a masochist. Jordan Herrera (Brix) is Maui's lover, who gets pleasure in beating his partner before having sex with her.

Andrea plays Victor Neri's unassuming girlfriend, who lives next door to Maui and Jordan. She eventually uncovers the truth behind the anguished moans she hears in the middle of the night from next door.

ANDREA and Maui: Battered babes

Former MTRCB chief Dinglasan dies at 56

FORMER Movie and Television Review and Classification Board chair Mari-len Dinglasan died on Thursday evening after a lingering illness at the Cardinal Santos Hospital in San Juan.

She was 56.

Dinglasan, who was appointed director of Nayong Pilipino and Camp John Hay Management Corp. last year, died at 10:45 p.m. on Thursday from complications due to diabetes, according to a source close to the family.

The former censors' chief had been confined in hospital since Monday.

The source said her confinement was "a regular thing every month. The family did not expect it would be her last."

Dinglasan was diagnosed with cancer 10 years ago, the source added.

She is survived by husband Raphael, children Rafa, Roanna, Bianca, Jonathan, and siblings Ricardo, Ismael, Halim, Rosary and Charlie.

Her remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Chapel on Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue in New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Oct. 24 at the La Loma Cemetery in Manila after the 1 p.m. Mass at Mt. Carmel Chapel.

Dinglasan was chair of the Videogram Regulatory Board before she replaced Alejandro Roces as MTRB chief in May 2002.

DINGLASAN ERIK ARAZAS

Prior to her appointment as MTRCB chair, Dinglasan was involved in several civic-oriented activities like the Ahon Mobilization Group of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSDW) in which she was a coordinator.

Dinglasan was the bass guitarist of the all-female band called Rockin' Mamas. She was also a member of the Pony Debs, which was the female counterpart of RJ Jacinto's RJ and the Riots. *Marinel Cruz*

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BUGBOG SARADO
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-2	TREK
CINEMA-3	PILYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HOW TO DEAL
CINEMA-6	KISKISAN
CINEMA-7	PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
CINEMA-8	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATCHSTICK MEN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THE SUSPECT
CINEMA-12	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-14	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-15	BUGBOG SARADO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	[illegible]
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-2	FREDDY VS. JASON
CINEMA-4	PILYA
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Ricky Reyes beauty tips on Smart Talk 'N Text

IN THE world of Philippine beauty and fashion, Ricky Reyes stands out as a "beauty and fashion authority."

For over 30 years, Reyes has revolutionized the hair care business in the Philippines. He credits hard work for his success.

Today, Reyes brings his years of experience in the beauty industry to a whole new level through Talk 'N Text Ganda Galore, a new service for Smart subscribers.

Talk 'N Text and Smart subscribers can ask Reyes questions on beauty and fashion. They can also download operator logos and picture messages that reflect Reyes' positive outlook on life. "Ganda ko!" or "Mr. Pogi" are two such messages that people can download on their cell phones.

Users can simply key in GANDANG RR and send it to 3481, to be a regular subscriber of beauty tips.

Smart and Talk 'N" Text subscribers can also text Reyes for advice on their beauty problems. Just key in your question and send to 3481.

If you want to share the benefits you've received from Talk 'N Text Ganda Galore, you can send the name and cell phone number of friends to 3481.

Reyes, who has expanded his chain of salons across the country, is always willing to experiment in terms of hairstyles and makeup.

When asked what are the three most important rules in hair care, Reyes gave the following tips; 1. shampoo and clean hair properly, 2. get a good haircut, ideally once a month, and 3. go to a proper hairdresser.

Reyes, who also has a television show "Beauty Plus" on RPN 9, said he is excited with his tie-up with Talk 'N Text.

"I've been on television for 13 years now, but not everybody can be reached by TV," he said. "With Talk 'N Text, I can now reach those people."

REYES

Tissot's T-Touch makes screen debut in Lara Croft flick

SHOW TIME

NEW YORK, NY, June 2003—Not unlike its female co-star Angelina Jolie in the upcoming new movie "Lara Croft Tomb Raider: Cradle of Life," Tissot's T-Touch watch is highly desirable and has been charming critics with its hot looks, sleek style and utterly cool performance.

The darling of Tissot's innovative touch-screen technology, the watch was selected by Paramount Pictures to make its big screen debut.

The T-Touch's multiple functions made it a natural choice for this action packed film.

By simply touching the crystal, the wearer can activate an altimeter, barometer, thermometer, compass, chronograph and alarm. The watch is reportedly making friends with cast and crew alike.

Catch Tissot in action at Montré (Your Life, Your Time, Your Style), Ground Floor, The Podium in Mandaluyong.

Tissot embodies 150 years of innovation and Swiss watchmaking tradition. World leader in the traditional Swiss watch segment, its mission is to offer a wide range of high quality timepieces at affordable prices.

As official timekeeper for the world championships in cycling, motorcycling, fencing and ice hockey, Tissot underlines the sporting values of quest for performance, precision and pushing oneself to the limit.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
Ali 1 BUGBOG SARADO
Ali 2 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
Ali 3 UNDERWORLD
Ali 4 THE SUSPECT
Ali 5 FREAKY FRIDAY
Ali 6 AMERICAN PIE
Ali 7 MATCHSTICK MEN

ARANETA COLISEUM
OCT 18 UAAP / NCCA ALL STAR GAME
OCT 19 UAAP / NCAA ALL STAR GAME
OCT 20 UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 22 UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 25 DZRJ'S 40TH GRAND REUNION

Opens Dec. 23 DISNEY ON ICE "Beauty & The Beast"
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Pinoy gay play goes on stage at CCP

"PAMHINTA" is a Filipino gay term derived from pa-minta or pa-mhin, which means acting straight.

The term is also the title of a new play which takes the spicy connotation of the word paminta or pepper in the context of a mixed culture and sensibilities of the gay sub-culture.

The play stars Arnold Reyes, Jan Marini, Gandong Cervantes, Al Gatmaitan, Dante Balboa, John Frederick Cruz, Gerard Pizarras, Daniel Cabrera and Earlmond Obligar. It is directed by Phil M. Noble and Khryss Adalia, and produced by Flaunt Entertainment.

"Pamhinta" will have a two-day, three performance series at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute (Studio Theater), Cultural Center of the Philippines on Oct. 25, 2003 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 26, 2003 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Tickets are at P800 each and available at all Ticketworld outlets, National Bookstore branches, Tower Records, Robinsons Galleria/Malate, Music Museum, Greenbelt 1 Cinema Ticket Booth, Glorietta 1 Cinema Ticket Booth or at the CCP Box Office. Call Flaunt Entertainment for any inquires at 3635360, 3610624, 3663497 or at 3233831 or Ticketworld at 8915610.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

UNDERWORLD R18 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING R18 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	FREAKY FRIDAY GP 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10
THE SUSPECT R13 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	PIGLETS BIG MOVIE GP 11:50, 1:40, 3:30, 5:20	MATCHSTICKMEN PG13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:30

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Vhong: I only wanted to be a dancer

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

THE YEAR 2003 has been extra good for Vhong Navarro.

His real name is Ferdinand. His mother's name is Imelda. She calls her son Bong Bong, but show biz changed the monicker into Vhong.

As Vhong, the comic, he plays it to the hilt on stage and on screen.

In person, Vhong says he jests a lot.

"I am full of jokes and I am happy when my friends laugh with me," says Vhong.

"During high school, I never ran out of stories to tell my classmates. *Napakadaldal kong tao* (I am a talkative person). But I dreamed only of one thing. I wanted to become a dancer. My idol was Michael Jackson and I imitated every step he did.

When I learned that a dance group was being formed, I told myself that this was the big opportunity I have been waiting for. Luckily, they found me qualified. *Magaling daw akong mag*-acrobat (They said I am a good acrobat).

First-class comedian

"Am I a funny person? *Masayahin akong tao* (I am a happy person). I leave all my problems at home," he relates.

Vhong's manager, film director Chito Roño, can be credited for discovering Vhong's comic talent.

In shows with the boy group dancers Streetboys, whom Roño also manages, Vhong showed his funny side, especially in television sitcoms and in the fantasy film "Spirit Warriors."

In Cass & Carrie, which also topbilled Bayani Agbayani, Vhong proved to be a first class comedian.

When told that he could succeed Dolphy, the king of comedy himself, Vhong becomes self-effacing.

"*Naku po, hinding-hindi po* (Oh no, that would never happen)," says the comedian seriously. "There is only one Tito Dolphy and no one will ever take his place even after he retires."

Vhong has done five movies this year, including "Gagamboy," a spoof of Spiderman which is an entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival.

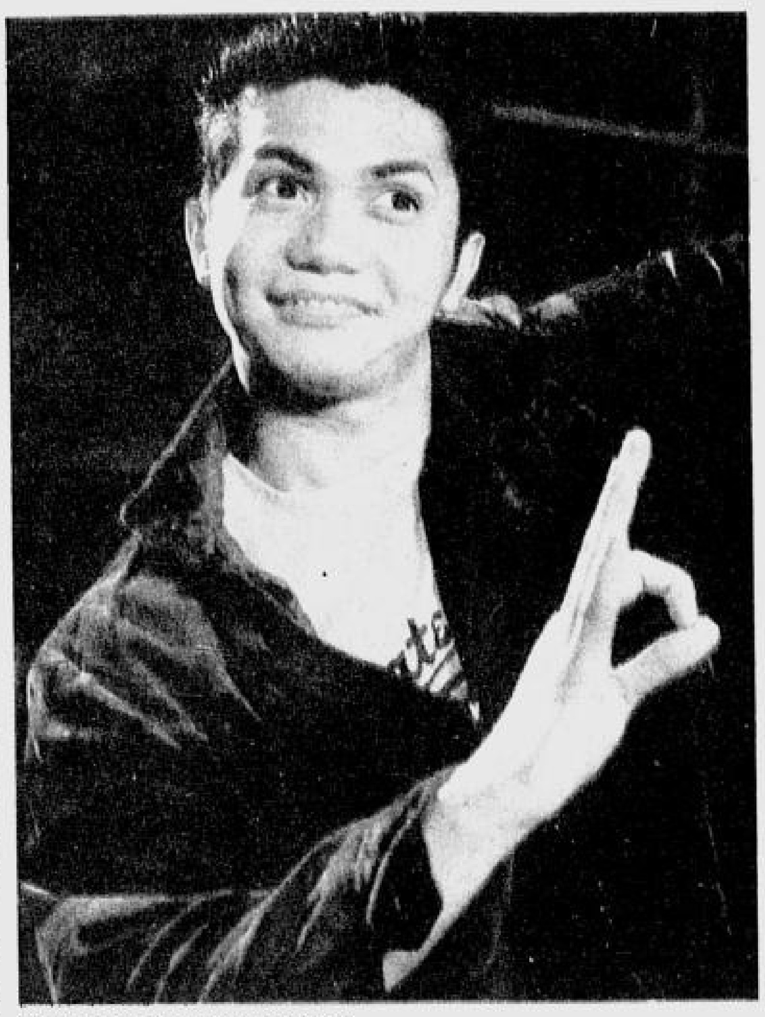
Heart and joy

In the absurd thriller "Keka" and in "Pinay Pie," Vhong played supporting roles to sexy actresses Katya Santos and Joyce Jimenez. But it is in "Gagamboy" where Vhong finally achieves solo stardom with the title role.

But his heart is filled with both fear and joy.

"I thought they were playing a joke on me when they informed me that (producer) Mother Lily has decided that I will play 'Gagamboy.' She asked me to coin the word but she never mentioned to me that I would be starring in the movie.

"*Super hero'ng mali-mali tayo dito pero kwela* (I play a fumbling super hero, who is funny). The movie is rich in funny situations and I had fun doing them. The difficult part is when I become Gagamboy. *Nakadikit sa aking katawan ang* costume *kaya mainit* (The costume sticks in my body and it is so hot). It feels like I'm in a desert. *Tatlong patong kasi ang kapal nito* (It has three layers). Putting on the harness is a painful process. *Naiipit ang aking* genitals *kapag hihilahin na itong paitaas* (My genitals get squeezed when I am pulled up). I can still feel the pain even after the leap sequences are over. For a week, I had to endure the pain because I didn't want to use a double in the aerial shots. The body movements will be different with a double and I didn't want that to happen. They got me for the role because I can do gymnastics so I'll stand by the role, including the flying sequences.



NAVARRO: I'm a happy person.

"I was in the air at 60 feet high with only a harness and a cable wire to support me. Of course, the wires that can be seen in the leaps will be erased in the computer to render these spectacle seamless.

"My main enemy is Ipisman, played by Jay Manalo, whose costume, compared to mine, is double (the) torture. The huge wings are an additional burden for Jay. As mortals, we fall for the charms of Aubrey Miles."

Vhong, whose favorite superhero character is Batman believes that the special effects in "Gagamboy" will definitely attract the children to see the movie directed by Erik Matti.

"Flying is always an inviting factor for the kids," he says. "That's why Superman is a big hit, and even Darna. As Gagamboy, I have a web to protect me from my enemies and an orange goo that can transform me into whatever object I desire. I can produce an umbrella in an instant or a bouquet of flowers for my ladylove. Or shower Ipisman with a rain of bullets. There are many fantasy films that will be shown this December, but the special effects would spell the difference.

"I hope everybody watches all the movies so everybody would be happy."

No special woman

Vhong claims he has no special woman at the moment.

"The special person in my life is my son Iseyah who is five years old," he says. "He is the reason why I am working so hard. The dreams which my parents had for me, I want to fulfill for my son. They wanted me to finish college, but I preferred to dance."

Iseyah is Vhong's son from a failed marriage.

"We were both young and passionate," he says of his marriage. "But no regrets because my son is priceless. As early as today, I will teach him how to be a responsible person, something that I was not in my younger years."

Vhong is also busy with two sitcoms--"Wattamen" and "Kung Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis", and other movie assignments that he has very little time left for dancing.

"Practice makes perfect and I am lacking in that," says Vhong. I'm also getting older so my movements are now limited. Years from now, I hope to train new dancers because it has always been my first love."

It is almost certain that Vhong will star as Mr. Suabe, the song popularized by Parokya ni Edgar.

Can he play a dramatic role? "*Pwedeng pag-aralan pero baka hindi kagatin. Doon na ako sa talagang gusto ng masa.* (I can try, but the public might not like it. I prefer to do what the masses would like me to do."

To judge or not to judge

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THESE past months some of our colleagues have been chiding us for turning down invitations to judge important competitions in the TV-film world. We set too many conditions they say, and our standards are too high.

Well, perhaps. But we explain why we're so "uncooperative," in the hope that this whole competing and judging issue can be clarified:

Our view is, when you hold a competition, you're looking for the best, and you're setting standards and touchstones. If your procedure makes it unlikely for the best to win, you're setting up false hopes and expectations that could have a negative instead of positive effect.

When you get "respected" judges to agree to be a part of your flawed procedure, you may be using them to "sanitize" and legitimize your competition's incorrect, subjective or mediocre verdicts—and we certainly don't want to be used to aid and abet those reprehensible purposes.

Let's talk about this "respected" tag: When the judge is respected, people expect the right decisions to be made. When they clearly aren't, due to manipulation of the procedure, the judge's reputation suffers.

Or, even worse, the wrong decision is made to seem to be right, because the "respected" judge was persuaded or co-opted into making it—and there go our standards for excellence.

Once, we complained about the inefficient screening system of a film festival, because movie buffs were coming in from the provinces to view a particular film, only to find that the announced schedule had been changed.

To mollify us, the festival organizer asked us to be a member of the film fest's board of judges. Of course, we declined.

The following year, the film festival was still a big mess, so we again complained on behalf of a number of irritated and disappointed movie buffs. The festival organizer did himself one better: to placate us, he invited us to be the chair of the esteemed board of judges! Again, we passed the "honor" up.

Next, another festival asked us to be a judge of the script writing contest attached to it. The scriptwriting competition was supposed to "discover" gifted new writers and give them a boost. But we learned that the festival preferred scripts that had established producers attached to them.

We asked ourselves: How many new writers know producers? Very few. So, this preference would make it difficult for their scripts to win, and be produced as a festival entry.

Due to this serious, unfair and hypocritical flaw in the writing tilt's procedure, we declined the invitation to judge the competition. We didn't want to be a party to the ruse.

Some of our similarly respected colleagues agreed to judge the screenwriting contest, and when its choices were criticized, their presence on the board of judges was used to sanitize the verdicts—exactly the outcome that we had feared.

Later, we were asked to judge yet another edition of the scriptwriting contest, and we again declined, because the unfair condition was still in place. Once again, the results of the competition were roundly criticized, and once more, the names of the "respected" people on the board of judges were trotted out to legitimize the questionable results.

Our point is, even if you're knowledgeable and principled, when you are mixed with less principled judges, your verdict will be overwhelmed by theirs, and yet, your presence will be used to make the compromised verdict look right.

This doesn't happen, of course, and your reputation suffers. So, why agree, even for the most noble of motives, to be a part of a dubious competition?

Most recently, we were asked to judge a scriptwriting contest held by a movie company. We again declined for these reasons: First, there would be a pre-selection group that would first trim down the 100-plus entries to only 30, and we judges would read only those 30 "semifinalists."

We didn't go along with this, because we didn't know the level of competence and "agenda" of the "pre-judgers."

What if they passed up a genuine find? This happens, you know.

Second, the 30 entries would be pre-selected for various factors including "commercial appeal." While we acknowledge producers' concern for turning a profit, we feel that this shouldn't be a factor for pre-selection.

Rather, first judge all scripts on point of quality—and then, after the winners have been selected, choose the ones that would be financially practical to produce, and have great audience appeal.

So, while we admired the movie studio for going out of its way to hold the contest, we didn't agree to serve as a judge.

Jessa Zaragoza in comeback concert

AFTER giving birth to a beautiful daughter named Janelle Amanda Avanzado (Jayda for short) Jessa Zaragoza is now ready for her big comeback via her concert "Jessa...Reborn" on October 22 at 8 p.m. at Ratsky Morato, Quezon City.

"I'm glad to be back," exclaims Jessa.

"It's been quite some time that I had my solo concert. Of course, I enjoy my new role as a mother. Just four months after giving birth, I am more inspired to work actively again for my baby.

"Dingdong is also supportive of me. I hope my fans will be there to watch my concert."

Jessa is tagged as the "Phenomenal Diva" because of her record breaking performances in recording. She is a multi-platinum artist with a string of successful albums.

On TV, Jessa was seen as Andromeda in the ABS-CBN teleserye "Bituin."

In her comeback concert, Jessa will be performing her hits, plus cuts from "Kahit Na Ilang Umaga" her latest album under Star Records.

Star Records has just launched Jessa's latest single, "Sana Magbuhat Pa Ng Una" composed by Tito Cayamanda, and a new music video showcasing the singer's new look.

The music video was directed by Connie Macatuno.

"Jessa...Reborn" the concert will showcase Jessa's vocal prowess and versatility with a challenging repertoire that includes a Donna Summer medley, Shirley Bassey medley and Toni Braxton hits.

ZARAGOZA

Special guests will be Mr. Ogie Alcasid who comes fresh from his successful 16th anniversary concert at the Araneta Coliseum, and Josh Santana whose current hit single, "Tagalized Can't Help Fallin," the Meteor Garden theme song, is included in his "Solo" album under Star Records.

The concert is produced by Star Records and DMV Entertainment.

"Jessa...Reborn" tickets are now available at Ratsky Morato (Tel. 3739881), Ratsky Malate (Tel. 5238610), Star Records (Tel. 4139162) and DMV Entertainment (Tel. 3741361/4150373).

Sponsors for are BUM Equipment and Weighless Center.

Generations connect in DZRJ concert

MUSICIANS from five decades make a connection as Globe Handyphone presents "DZRJ's 40th: The Grand Reunion," a stellar reunion of Filipino artists who matter in the local music industry.

The concert is slated on Oct. 25 at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

Led by Ramon "RJ" Jacinto, the man behind the station dzRJ, "The Grand Reunion" will feature artists who represent the '60s era all the way to the present in a seamless presentation that will be marked by milestones in the radio station's history.

To jam the night away are Joe Mari Chan, Joey "Pepe" Smith, Freddie Aguilar, Jolina Magdangal, the Rage Band, Andrew E., Pilita Corrales, and Sampaguita.

The biggest bands of the different decades will also render their signature numbers: RJ and the Riots for the '60s; Hotdog and Boyfriends for the '70s; the Dawn for the '80s; Pido with Take One for the '90s; and Barbie's Cradle and Moonstar 88 for the new millennium.

Numbers to watch out for are Elizabeth Ramsey and Jaya, jamming with RJ Jacinto, and the two Elvis Presleys of the Philippines, Edgar Opida and Boy Sanchez.

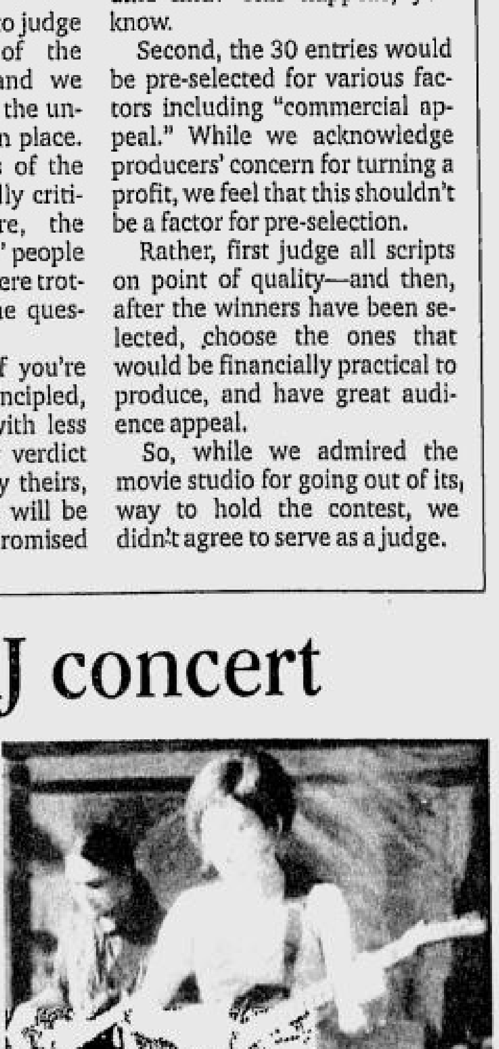
Completing the line-up of 25 bands and solo performers are Leah Navarro, Karylle, Mitch Valdes, Janet Basco, Louie Heredia, Ernie Delgado of the Electromaniacs, Asin, Aegis, Hi-Jacks, Moonstrucks, Cowboy, Father and Sons and many more.

The show promises to be the biggest and the most fun this year.

It will also be a night of dancing as the Rage band and RJ and the Riots will play the hits of the decades that made at least three generations dance, laugh and cry.

Tickets to the DZRJ 40th anniversary grand reunion show are available at all Ticketnet outlets. For inquiries, call 911-5555.

RAGE Band



BARBIE'S Cradle

10th NU Rock Awards now open for nominations

THE 10TH NU 107 Rock Awards for this year are now open for nominations.

The nominations are for album/band/song of the year, best new artist, best rock video, best album packaging, and vocalist/guitarist/bassist/drummer/producer of the year.

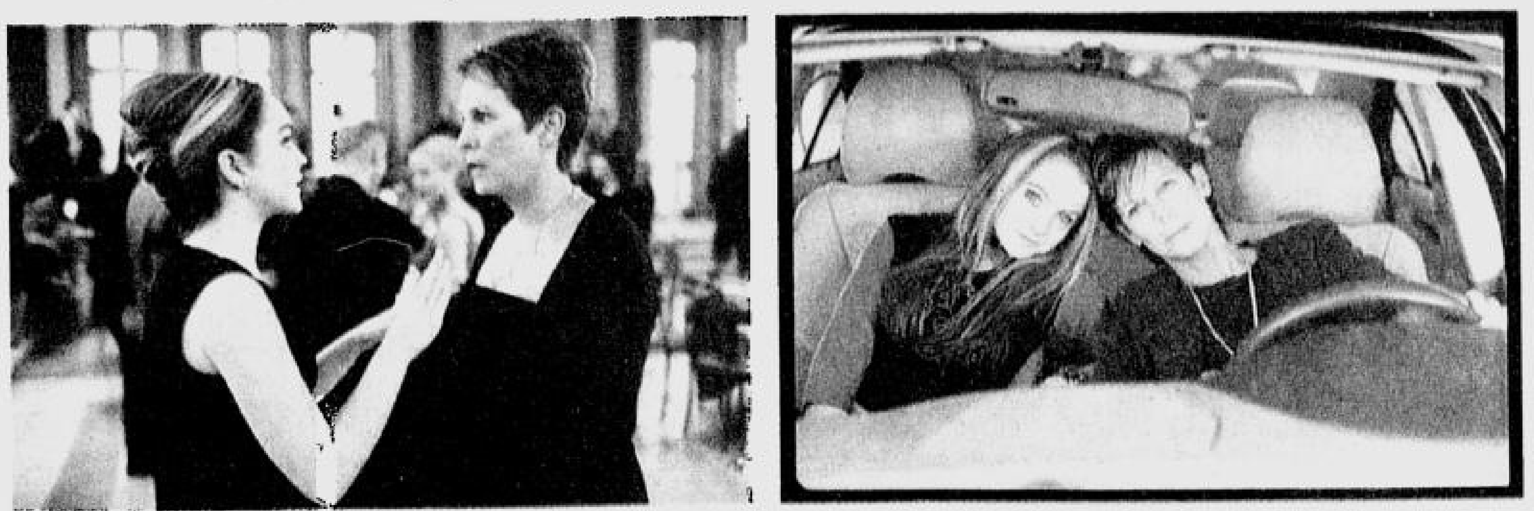
Votes can be cast at official NU 107 Rock Awards polling stations at Tower Records and Music One outlets in Alabang, Glorietta and SM Megamall, and at the Netopia branches at SM Megamall, Shaw Boulevard, Robinson's Manila, SM North Edsa and International Shopping Sta. Mesa, or at the NU 107 studios in Ortigas Center.

The awards ceremony on Nov. 26 at the World Trade Center celebrates the first decade of the Rock Awards and will be broadcast live over NU 107.

The country's top bands such as Rivermaya, Parokya Ni Edgar, Razorback, Slapshock and the Dawn will be on stage with fast rising acts like Sugarfree, Kamikazee and Urban dub.

For tickets, call 634 6514.

The NU 107 Rock Awards is presented by Red Horse Extra Strong Beer, Freego Jeans & Shirts and in part By Pepsi X Energy Cola, in cooperation with Nokia 3300, Tower Records, Music One, Netopia and Hard Rock Café with Guerilla Wear.

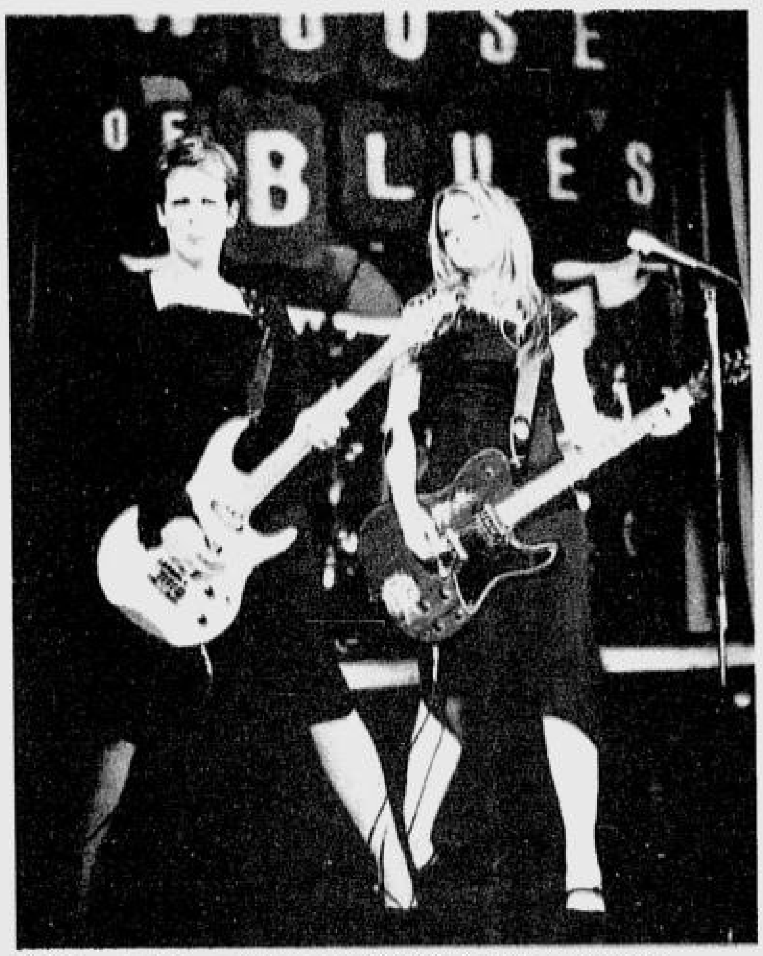


LINDSAY Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis play a mother and her 15-year-old daughter who switch bodies for a single day.

CURTIS with co-star Mark Harmon

Jamie Lee Curtis: 44 going on 17

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor



JAMIE and Lindsay wield mean guitars in the Disney comedy.

JAMIE LEE CURTIS
LINDSAY LOHAN
FREAKY FRIDAY

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

LOS ANGELES—Seated beside actress Jamie Lee Curtis, I suddenly feel her rubbing my back.

I tell her: "I love the way you're massaging me."

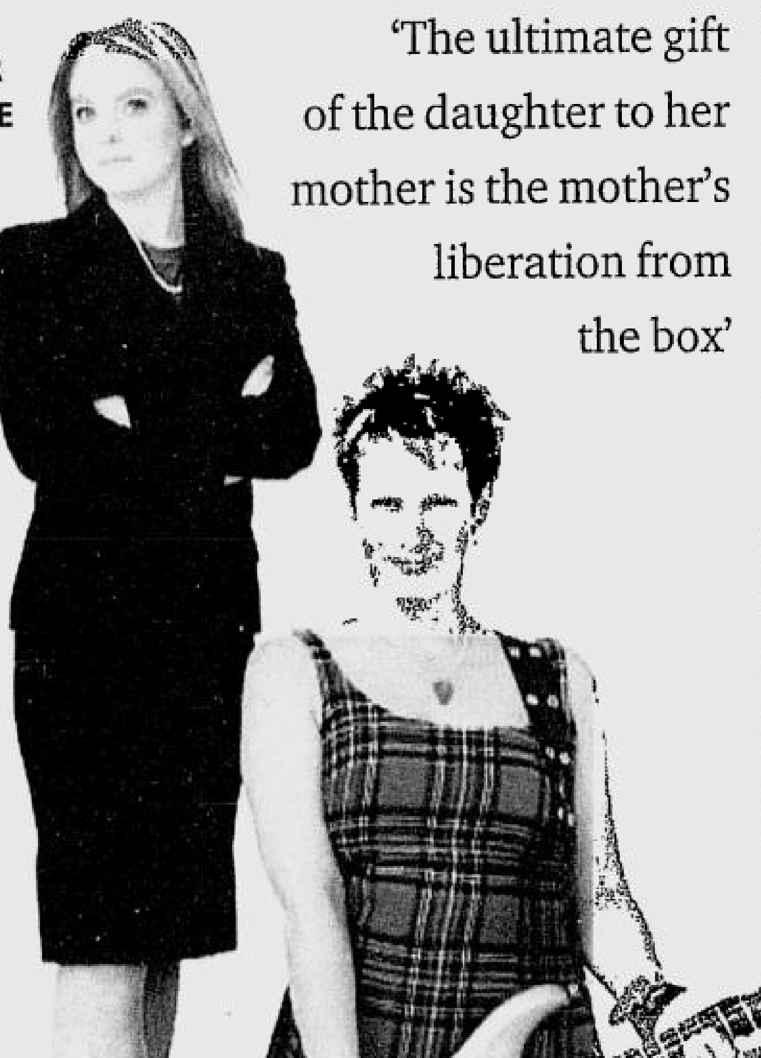
But she immediately shoots back, "Oh no, I'm not massaging you. I'm looking for your bra snap!"

We laugh.

Then I ask her if she had any second thoughts about wearing and showing off her thong in the movie "Freaky Friday" with Lindsay Lohan ("The Parent Trap").

Based on the novel of Mary Rodgers, the Disney comedy is the story of a mother (Dr. Tess Coleman, portrayed by Jamie) and her 15-year-old daughter Anna (Lindsay) who switch bodies for a single day.

"Oh no, that was totally my idea," she tells us. "To me the thing that I was able to bring to the role was as much physical manifestation of this internal change. For me, internal change is subtle and fun and if you are doing an adult film, it can be very subtle. But when you are doing a film for kids, the more external you can play with it, the better. So all of that stuff, even the transformation where my character puts the credit card down, cuts her hair, puts a stud on an ear, keeps the stud, in the end is my idea. I thought that was the ultimate gift of the daughter to her mother—the mother's liberation from the box."



'The ultimate gift of the daughter to her mother is the mother's liberation from the box'

Multitasking mom

We are face to face with the outspoken and down-to-earth actress in a Los Angeles hotel. In the movie, Jamie impressed us with her versatility in turning from an overworked, multitasking mother and psychologist to a flamboyant, carefree teenager.

She body surfs during a television interview, rides a motorcycle driven by her daughter's crush (the blissful look on her face is a precious moment in the film), kisses this boy, plays the electric guitar like a real rocker, and even walks around unabashedly in the aforementioned black thong.

Jamie Lee Curtis herself says that in real life, she is "not acting like an adult."

She half-jokingly sums herself up in one word, "obnoxious."

She is not.

She impresses us with her great attitude, self-esteem and confidence.

No pretensions

Dressed in a casual white long-sleeved top and denims, the lean and fit Jamie had earlier walked into the room with a cup of hot tea and a warm smile. She greeted everybody in the room and made sure she got our names and the country we are writing for before she sat down to answer our questions.

While most 40-something actresses in Hollywood claw their way to be super beautiful on and off-screen, Jamie is secure with her physical looks.

Wearing simple, natural makeup, the 44-year-old confesses that she hates hearing stories of actresses who supposedly do wonder exercise regimens, diets and yoga to achieve that "flawless, almost perfect" look.

"I think it is gross!" she exclaims.

For somebody who used to be hated for having the knockout figure in the mid-'80s, Jamie is not shy to admit that she no longer has that enviable 120-lb body. There are no pretensions for this frank woman. She tells it as it is.

"I find it so obnoxious for celebrities to talk about their exercise regimen because they have all the time in the world to do it. No offense to all these women but they do one hour and a half of yoga, and more hours for their other routines and diets. They have chefs who present them these diet meals.

"I have the real life. I make every meal in my house. And you know what, I don't have the time. I live the real life. So just forget it. We eat food."

Hollywood royalty

Jamie, who is the mother of Annie, 16, and Thomas, 7, and who has been married to actor/director Christopher Guest for 18 years, points out that "I find it really frustrating to read these litanies of women's exercise regimens and then so and so, I wouldn't name them although most of them have only one names," she says with a laugh. "Okay, so Ms So-and-So did this. But she has an army! She has an army to take care of her kids. She has an army to take care of her food. She has an army to take care of her business. She has an army! I'd look like that, too, if I had an army. But I don't have an army. And I don't want an army because I want to do things myself and enjoy these myself."

Jamie, a member of Hollywood royalty since she is the daughter of Janet Leigh and Tony Curtis, admits "having a beautiful mother made me feel insecure when I was young. So I tried to be an achiever. I did everything and tried to excel in everything. Now that I'm in my 40s, I feel I have nothing to prove anymore. I am what I am and I wouldn't trade what I know today as a 44-year-old to have the body of a 17-year-old."

Jamie reveals that she was quite shy as a teenager.

"I didn't wear provocative clothing. It's just not my style," she says.

She pauses and thinks for a while and then stresses again, "You know what, I wouldn't switch my mind right now for the figure of a young girl in a heartbeat."

She explains: "A lot of the youth today are so obsessed with physical beauty, not inner beauty. The media has hyped up the importance of physical beauty too much that many young people are more concerned about how they look rather than their inner beauty. Outside image is more important to them. When I was a teenager, I just wore denims and sneakers."

Asked how she feels about being 44, Jamie confidently replies, "The process of physical aging is difficult because change is always complicated. Emotional change is complicated. Physical change is complicated. I think everywhere change is hard. Period. So ultimately, I am happier at 44 than I have ever been. Why is that, you ask? Self-understanding and acceptance. Do I like my body back when I was 16? Yeah, but not so much so as to forsake everything that I have gained, learned and experienced at this age."

Her teenage daughter had told Jamie that "I shouldn't be nervous in portraying a teenager because I'm the adult who'll always be a teenager! I think my daughter is the guardian angel of this movie. I wouldn't be able to do this movie without her.

"Just by being my teenage daughter and living with her every single day has already given me a wealth of experience on how to deal with teenagers. Surrounded by her friends, her energy and all the emotional things and layers that a teenager goes through has given me a well-rounded view of how it is to live with a teenager. I wouldn't have that access the way my daughter has given me that access. So I really appreciate that."

On older women dating much younger boys, Jamie breaks into a meaningful smile and says, "I made a joke about it in the Teens' Choice awards the other day. I knew Ashton Kutcher was the awardee so I said something like, 'Hey, Ashton, if you think 40 is fun, well, come up here and get a taste of 44!'"

We all laugh.

Best-selling author

But Jamie points out that she "doesn't judge people. There's so much going on in the world. There are many people I am judging harshly and that's because of their actions in the political level and certainly, I will not judge people on an intimate personal level. I don't begrudge anybody who dates younger men."

The award-winning actress, who also demonstrated her versatility in such films as "True Lies" opposite California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, "Trading Places" with Eddie Murphy and Dan Aykroyd, "The Tailor of Panama" with Pierce Brosnan, "Halloween: H2O," "A Fish Called Wanda," among others, is a best-selling author of children's books.

"I write books about 4- to 8-year-olds and their feelings while living in an adult world so it's really a weird combination," she discloses. "You know, it's just like a 17-year-old girl trapped in a 44-year-old body," she says with a naughty twinkle in her eye.

Maricel mellow and gentle

From page C8

told, and in the hands of Maricel, the telling of the tale is fraught with naked pain.

Opposite characters

"People think it's easy to be an actress," said Maricel. "But who said anything was easy? Nothing is ever easy. Just think of the passion and emotion that is involved in the acting process."

She described Yolanda as a woman who has been trampled on. "That's why I look so dowdy in the movie," she explained. "I play the weak sibling in the family, the one who stayed home to care for the mother."

Yolanda is the exact opposite of the cold-hearted Vera, Maricel's role in last year's "Mano Po."

"Vera was really a bitch," said Maricel. "She's cold and manipulative. I really hated her. But Yolanda is timid. So it's a different role for me, but not less challenging."

She prepares for every movie role as soon as she reads the script.

"You see things already in your mind," she explained. "You already get into the scene, the character, as if there's a camera already grinding in front of you. Even before you shoot, the movie is already finished in your mind."

Alone with God

Throughout the interview, Maricel's voice is mellow and her manner gentle. She is no longer the loud-mouthed shrew that this writer had once known. Is she for real?

"Some people have found it hard to see me change," she said. "But I have changed . . . for the better. One night, I was alone in my room. I never wanted to be alone. I always surrounded myself with people.

"But one night, for some reason I could not understand, I just started crying. I was already talking to God straight from my heart. I did not rationalize. I just accepted all my faults, all my defects, and I told Him that I am turning over my entire life to Him. I asked Him to take care of me.

"When you're happy inside, you're okay. You no longer look for anyone if you have Him. But it's a process. If I didn't go through that process, I wouldn't appreciate my life now. When I think of what I was before, of how crazy I was, how hostile and bitter I was to the world, I also realize how God's love is so unconditional, that He never leaves you behind."

Maricel claims her life is still normal and that there are still problems she has to solve. But she finds contentment in raising two sons—Maron, 16, and Sebastian, 10, her son with former lover Cesar Jalosjos.

Maron is studying in North Carolina. Sebastian goes to the Ateneo.

Children and mother

"My children are the most important things in my life," she confided. "I appreciate both of them. I told Maron that he was adopted when he turned 7. I told him he did not come from my belly, but from my heart. Shen is happily adjusted.

"Children are so different now. One time, Shen told my mother, whom he calls Mommy, 'Mommy, I think you better talk to your daughter. She is your daughter and she is my mother. You are my grandmother. Please tell her that I can go to Toy Kingdom. You better talk to her.'

"So it's very clear to him that my parents are his grandparents, and I'm his mother. When you ask him about his father, he says, 'Oh, he's very busy.' Does he miss his dad? He'd say, 'No.' He knows his father, but he did not grow up with him around.

"I am so glad I have my children. I am also a product of a broken family, but my children are not *naman kawawa* (pitiful)."

Maricel considers producer Lily Monteverde the one person who has influenced her life and career.

"I started with her in 'Underage,' and she really took care of me. There were times when we had misunderstandings. But that's okay, that's part of life."

Reaching out

She has also broken down the walls she has erected around herself and has started to reach out to people around her.

"When I had this wall around me, I was afraid to approach people first," said Maricel. "They might not smile back at me or they might ignore me. But one thing I learned from Daddy Dolphy, who's very shy, that I should be the one to greet people first, like my co-workers. He told me to make the first move, that sometimes we have to reach out or people might misinterpret me.

"I have also reached the point that I no longer find it hard to reach out. I went out of my way to reconcile with people."

In the process, Maricel Soriano has also reconciled with herself.

Maricel mellow and gentle

By Nini Valera

ACTRESS Maricel Soriano is groping for words.

No longer the sharp-tongued "Taray," Maricel, 38, could only thank God for her endurance in a business that's known for discarding its stars once they've lost their shine.

"I can only say I'm blessed," said Maricel, whose glitter has not faded since she started making movies at age 6. "That's why I'm still here, and I can only thank God for that."

She is on the set of Viva Films' "Filipinas," her first movie for this year. It's the only movie her manager Wyngard Tracy had wanted her to do, even if she had three or four other offers for the Metro Manila Film Festival alone.

"He told me to read the script because he wanted me to do the movie," said Maricel. "I agreed with his choice after I read the script. Wyngard decides which role I should accept. I trust him for everything, not just my career, but my life."

Maricel plays Yolanda who has lost her voice in a family dominated by a strong-willed eldest brother played by Richard Gomez and a domineering mother essayed by Armida Siguion-Reyna.

Even in an ensemble movie like "Filipinas," Maricel gets to play a plum part. It's from Yolanda's point of view that the story is

MARICEL/ C7

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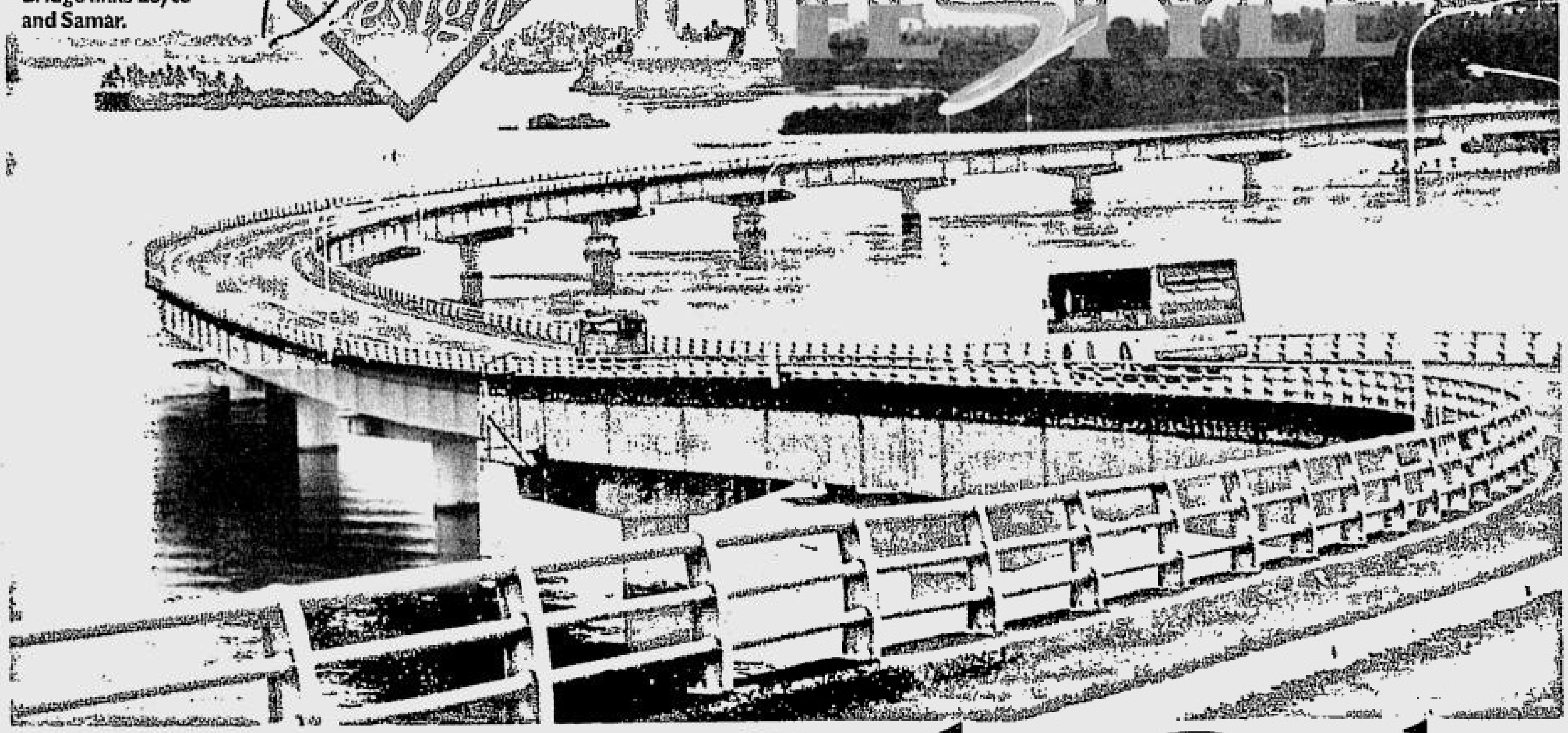

AN ENGINEERING feat, San Juanico Bridge links Leyte and Samar.

The builder of San Juanico Bridge was a world-class engineer and a first-rate gentleman

Remembering Pedro Bayle, builder of bridges and hearts

By Ricardo Trota José
Contributor

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They were all designed by one Filipino, a Filipino who excelled in his work, a man who was one of the many silent heroes of this country.

Pedro Blando Bayle, or Pete as all his friends knew him, recently passed away, one of countless Filipinos who did his job the best way he could, using his skills and talents in ways where people would benefit from them. He was recognized for his expertise by the governments of the Philippines and the US, and by several private companies here and abroad.

Pedro Bayle was born on Jan. 18, 1922, in Bangued, Abra. The Philippines had been under American colonial rule for over 20 years, but little had changed in Bangued, nestled in the mountain. The town was poor. Pete's father, Julio Bayle, was chief postmaster.

In school, Pete excelled in sports, particularly in track and field. He would keep his interest in sports long after he was a student, for it was one thing which developed discipline and perseverance, and the drive to excel.

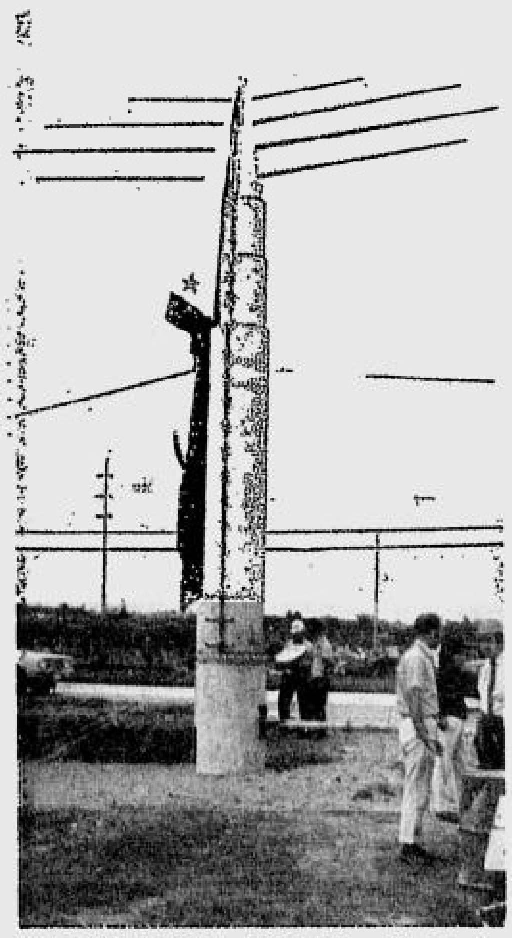
Pete took and passed the entrance exam to University of the Philippines in 1940; his chosen course was civil engineering. He moved to Manila and began the rigorous course of study.

His talent in sports continued, and he became a member of the UP Varsity, specializing in jumping hurdles.

But hardly had he begun his sophomore year when World War II broke out in the Pacific in December 1941. Pete was cut off from home and had to rely on his wits. He decided to join the Constabulary and became Constabulary chief of Mindoro. Mindoro was home to guerrillas, but there were rival bands. One could be killed simply for being on the wrong side of the fence. Pete became active in the resistance movement, but had to step carefully lest he, an outsider, arouse the jealousy and suspicion of other guerrillas.

The war ended. A brother, Ernesto, had joined the army but had not survived the war. Economically, the country was devastated.

REMEMBERING/ D2



INAUGURATION in 1967 of the rolled steel pipe, the design and technology for which Bayle won an award

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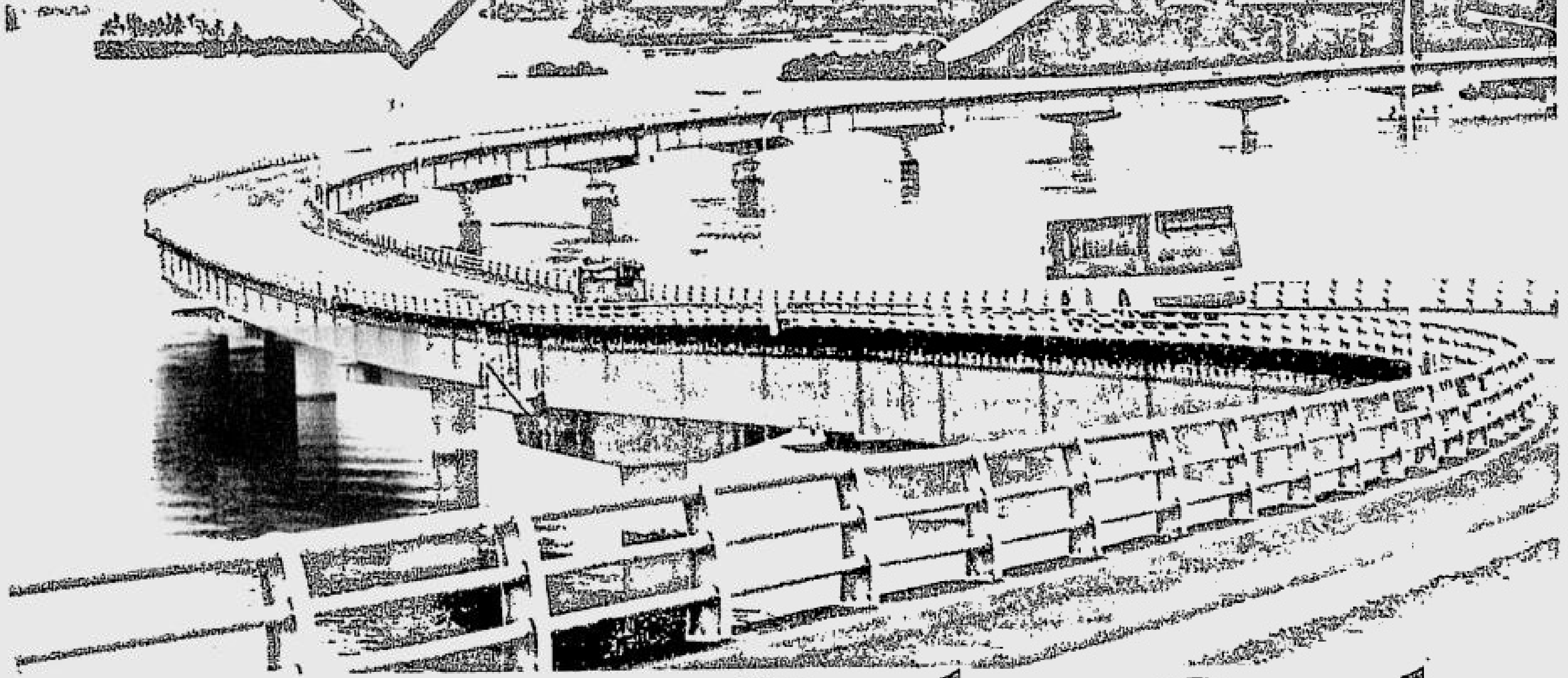

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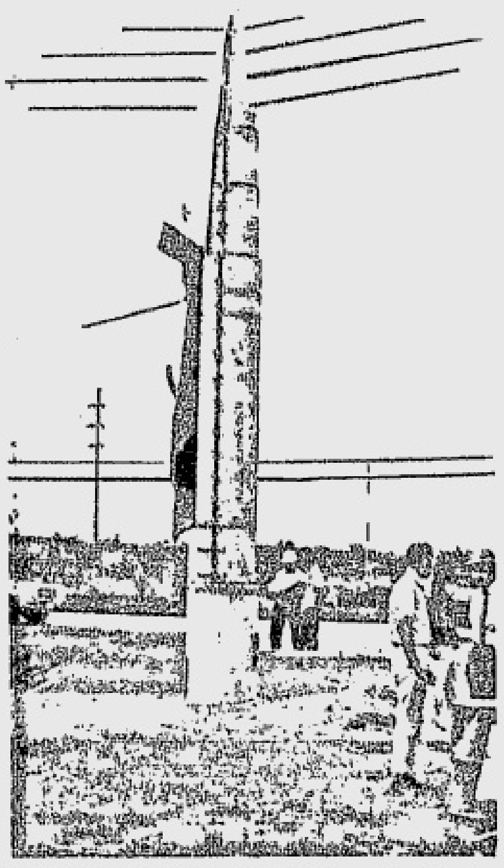

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Remembering Pedro Bayle, builder of bridges and hearts

INSPECTING pipes at the International Pipe Industries, 1972-1975

BAYLE (in civilian clothes) at the US military base in Okinawa, 1945-1948

From page D1

Pete's father had remarried and there was no more money to be expected from him. Pete was on his own.

Pete volunteered with the US Army as a civilian for construction projects. He was taken to the island of Okinawa, together with other Filipino engineers and laborers.

The Americans needed engineers and laborers to reconstruct the roads, airfields and towns. Pete was part of the reconstruction task; he gained much valuable experience in the process and was able to save enough money to continue his education.

He returned to Manila in 1948 and went back to UP, now at its new site in Diliman. He became captain of the UP Varsity Men's Volleyball team. He won many trophies to prove his athletic prowess.

But his love of sports did not detract from his engineering studies, and he was awarded his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1951. He took the government exam and passed it with flying colors.

On campus, he fell in love with Elisea Aquino from Mangaldan, Pangasinan. She was a member of the UP Pharmacy Women's Volleyball team.

They were very much in love but Ely's family was opposed to him because of the age difference. Pete was 12 years older than Ely.

After four years of courtship, the Aquino family softened and asked Pete if they could meet his father. Pete contacted his father, but Julio Bayle would not come down to Manila until he had enough money to pay for a grand wedding.

Again, here was Pete's hated poverty holding him back. Pete broke the impasse by convincing Ely to elope with him. They were married in a private civil ceremony in July 1953.

When they finally broke the news, Ely's parents accepted the fact, and on Oct. 10, 1953, the two were wed in a simple church ceremony.

Pete and Ely were blessed with seven children: Jocelynn, Wylma, Anna (the international model), Gynna, Hubert, Weiner and Harold. Ely and the children were his inspiration at work, and to continuously improve himself.

To excel

Pete's ambition was to excel in what he did. He joined the Bureau of Public Highways as a bridge design engineer and was initially assigned to Division 1, based in Baguio and covering the Ilocos region and Cagayan Valley.

He designed roads, bridges and tunnels which connected towns and villages in the area where he had grown up. Many of these are still standing, a tribute to his work. He was soon transferred to Manila, a promotion of sorts.

While working at the bureau, Pete also taught Structural Design at Feati University (he designed the eight-floor annex building). In the evening, he went to his master's class at National University.

In the Manila office of the bureau, he continued to design bridges. His expertise was in demand, as bridges were crucial to the transportation system in the country.

The bridges had to be durable and suited to Philippine conditions, capable for surviving earthquakes, typhoons and other natural phenomena, as well as strong enough to endure the heavy loads of cargo trucks.

In 1960, Pete was awarded a six-month scholarship to train with the US Bureau of Public Roads in Washington, D.C. Here he learned the latest techniques in highway bridge design and construction, and keenly noted which would be applicable to Philippine conditions.

While many bridges in the US used steel, he recognized that steel bridges would be expensive for the Philippines, as all the steel would have to be imported.

Pete Bayle took particular interest in the new methods of using prestressed concrete—more practical for the Philippines where concrete was used widely.

After the training course in the US capital, he toured various states to see first-hand how the design and construction techniques were being put to use. He did not only learn from the Americans; he also taught them about the Philippines, for he was proud of his country.

Upon his return to Manila, he immediately wrote about what he had learned, and published articles in professional journals for other engineers to learn from.

Pete Bayle's crowning achievements as a bridge designer were Mandawe-Opon Bridge, which links Mactan with Cebu, and more particularly, the San Juanico Bridge, which links Leyte with Samar, an engineering marvel of great beauty and functionality.

After 12 years in government, Pete moved on and joined the newly organized International Pipe Industries (IPI) Corporation, based in Pasig.

He designed and supervised the construction of the IPI plant, and became one of the company's key officials—its structural engineer. He also became IPI's design engineer and later rose to become vice president for design and analysis.

So successful were his designs that his design for steel electrical pipes to replace the old wooden electrical posts was adopted by the Philippine government and can now be seen all over the country.

Pete's design employed a revolutionary technique using spirally welded pipe that enabled the construction of tall electrical transmission poles which could survive typhoon winds and other pressures.

World-class

Pete's electrical transmission poles were world-class. He won the international competition for the design of transmission poles.

The Sumitomo Company in Japan took an interest in it and signed a contract to be allowed to manufacture the pipes and use them in Japan and other parts of Asia.

The Krakatau Steel Company in Indonesia also recognized Pete's brilliance as a civil engineer and invited him to help establish their plant. He received a contract to provide Guam with the durable poles.

To further his expertise, he was invited to Japan as a trainee of the Asian Productivity Organization in Tokyo. Pete also served as a consultant to other firms.

Pete and Ely moved to the US in 1975. He worked for various engineering firms, designing bridges, highway structures and buildings in Illinois. He continued to study and attend seminars until he retired in the mid-'80s.

In the early '90s, he had a very bad fall. Doctors found him afflicted with a neurological disease. But he kept his humor and love for life, and continued his devotion to Ely and the family.

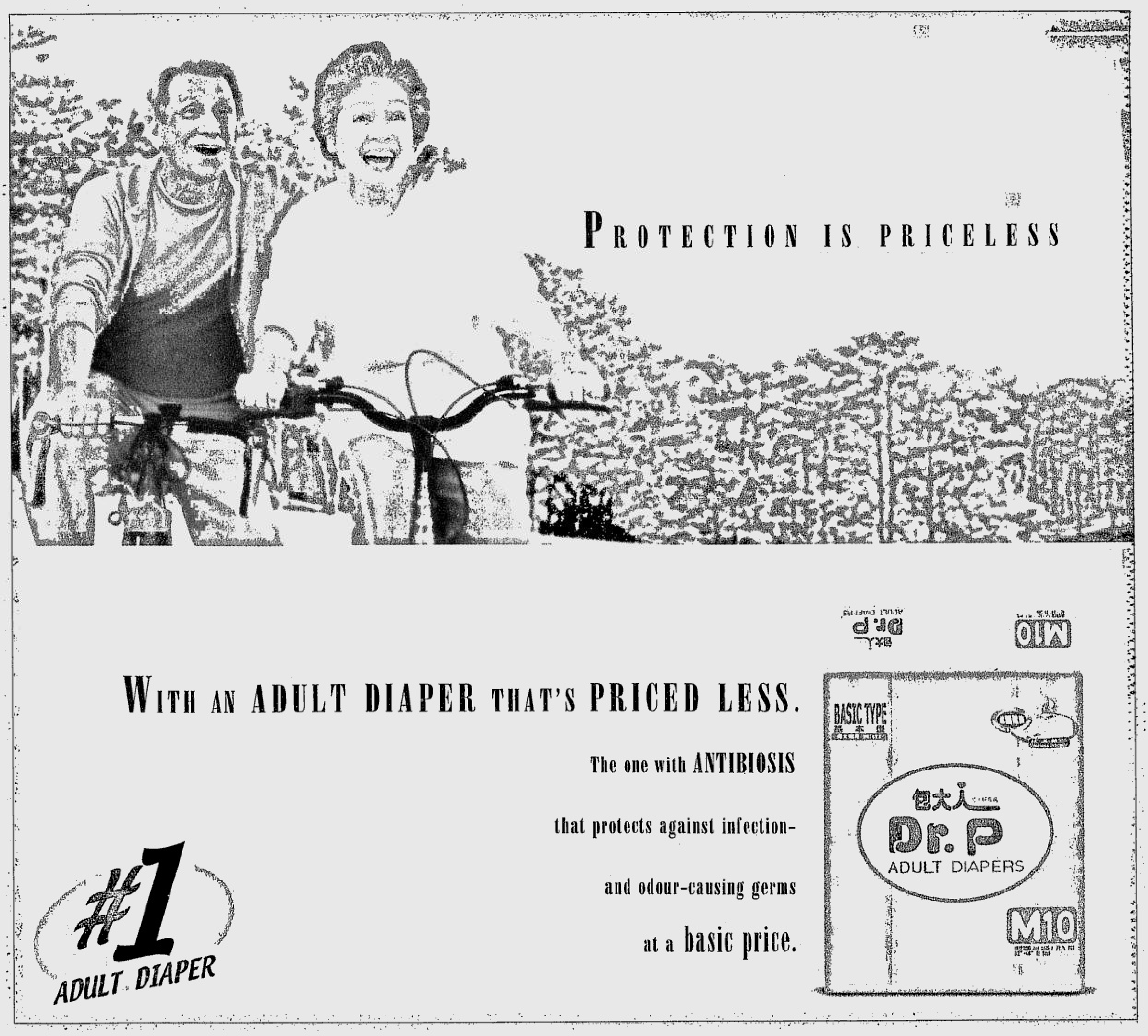
Pete and Ely—and, of course, their children and other relatives—had looked forward to their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 10, 2003. Perhaps they could now have the lavish wedding ceremony they had only dreamed of when they were young.

On Sept. 11, Pete suffered a heart attack and fell unconscious. He was rushed to Saddleback Memorial Hospital in Laguna Hills, California, where doctors tried to revive him. He showed his old spunk and struggled to hang on. But his heart collapsed on Sept. 14.

Pedro Bayle lives on in the structures he designed, though his name is not emblazoned on his creations. If you should pass by San Juanico Bridge, picture Pete Bayle, the engineer, satisfied that his work is being put to good use.

He himself was a bridge who connected people and left an enduring legacy.

Ricardo Trota Jose is professor and chair of the History Department of UP Diliman.



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#1 ADULT DIAPER

Lessons my father taught me

By Anna Bayle
Contributor

WHEN I was two, he would rock me in his arms and try to lull me to sleep by singing "If I Loved You" from Hammerstein and Kern's "Carousel." But he would sing the lullaby in a belting, even violent fashion. The violence showed love and passion. It was my first memory of being alive.

Moments after he passed away last month, after we said our prayer, I started to sing, "If I loved you."And like we always did when he was alive, everyone joined in. At the funeral, how I shouted out my love for my father when I again sang the song.

He was there for each of his children. He was there when my sickly baby sister turned black and blue from crying. He was there when someone found a garden snake writhing around my teddy bears perched high up on the ledge over my bed while I was sleeping.

He was there whenever I started to feel faint from the overpowering stale perfume of veils and Sunday clothes. Carrying me in his arms, he would always buy me cotton candy and a balloon while we hung out with his acquaintances outside the church, waiting for everyone to finish communion. It was my special time with him.

He was always there. He was not much for words but he was ever present in all the decisions of our youth.

He taught me how to be consistent.

Balance

He was a handsome man who had a beautiful athlete's physique. He could be the recreational gambler with his "compadres" and his "Texans" (fighting cocks).

Or he could be that very smart dresser, always in snappy suits. He was never conservative in his color schemes. In fact, we were probably the only children in school that wore emerald green Banlon ski trousers with orange Sabrina tops that he brought back from Japan.

He always brought us to very expensive restaurants on special occasions like his promotion. He treated us on weekends and held family picnics while he practiced his golf swing.

I remember sleeping under a tree while he watched me. And if there was ever a place of contentment in my whole life, that was it.

He taught me how to have balance in life.

Finding my way

One morning when I was four, I told him I wanted candy. He gave me coins to humor me. When I was alone, I opened the gate, crossed the busy street and walked to the farthest sari-sari store. The storeowners were petrified and immediately sent for someone from our house. All the adults of our household scolded me.

But my dad was the only one laughing. He probably did not mind that I had no fear and that I wanted to be independent so early in life.

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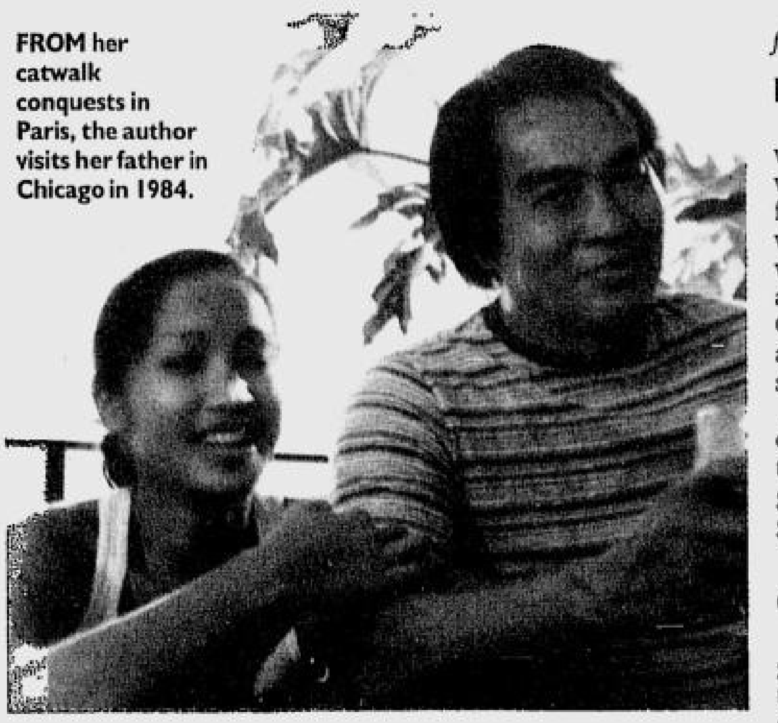

FROM her catwalk conquests in Paris, the author visits her father in Chicago in 1984.

ANNA Bayle's son, Callum Bayle-Spence, 5, with grandpa during Christmas 2002

The only certified Filipina supermodel pours out her grief over the loss of her superdad

Hard work

In the evenings when we were kids, we would be in our dining table doing our homework and at 11, our father would come home from his two jobs and his night schooling. He was working for the Bureau of Public Highways, designing bridges like the San Juanico and the Mandawe-Opon. At night he taught Civil Engineering and Structural Engineering at Feati University. After that, he would go to school for his Masters at National University.

We would watch him arriving from the window and he would always be carrying something for us—a bag of peanuts, balut. After a grueling day, he still had the time and the energy to think of his children.

He taught me the value of hard work.

Giving and learning

Almost every month, whenever there was a golf tournament at U.P., he came home with a trophy and he would hand it to whichever child was next on the list.

Each one of us felt very special for receiving us something that he had worked hard for. It was as if he was saying to us, "I won this for you."

He taught me how to give.

In my teens, he told me to always read when I was sad or depressed. He said learning would cure everything.

He taught me the beauty of learning.

Star

He wrote me a very touching letter once, when I was 18 to 22 and living in Hong Kong, hardly communicating with the family.

Our father was a numerologist. He had a gift with math and everything that pertained to numbers. He had strange spellings for his children's names (for instance, Hubert was really Hubett, named after the Russian cosmonaut; or Gynna as opposed to Gina. Haroldd is spelled with two d's and he really meant to call Weiner Werner.)

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And a star I aspired to be. A star for my father.

Name and heritage

People in fashion in Paris who were grooming me to be a star wanted to change my name to Esmeralda or Maria Montezuma to make my persona sound more exotic. They even wanted to make up a fantastic story that I was discovered in the deserts of Arizona.

DADDY's girl stands proudly beside her man in 1993.

I refused the idea adamantly because I told them I wanted to keep my father's name and I wanted every one to know that I am Filipino.

I was always so proud of my father and his achievements that I wanted very much for him to be proud of me.

He gave me that burning passion to go for my dreams.

He also taught me how to be proud of my beginnings and my heritage.

Loving and mending

And when my son was born, he said, "Tell him everyday that you love him or find a way to show him every single day that you love him."

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There were no admonitions. The only thing he said was, "Is your husband out of his mind? Does he not know what treasure he has?" There was no pressure from him for me to fit the normal mode.

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For whatever I am, whatever I have been and whatever I am going to be, I will be what my father taught me to be: Proud.

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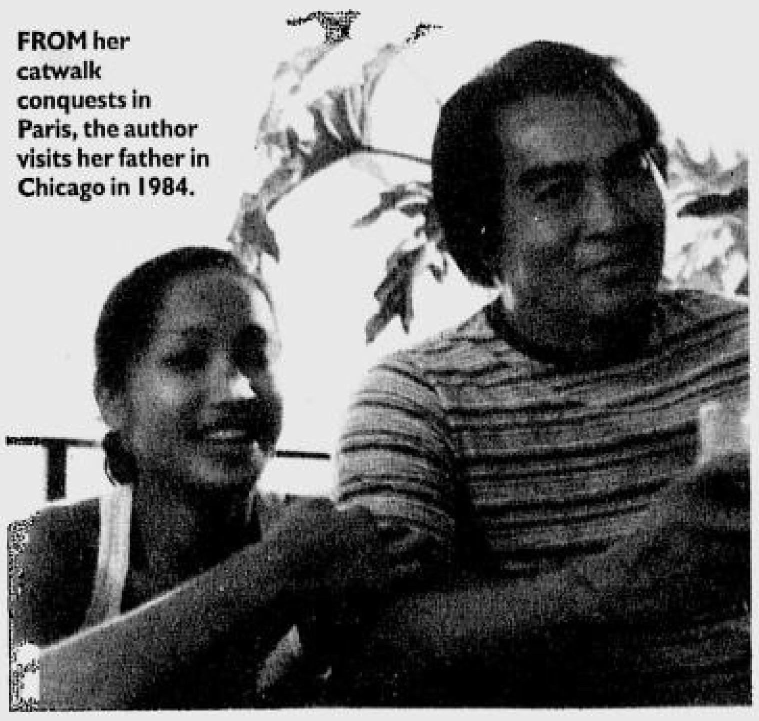

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Is anyone watching over our religious patrimony?

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

THE GROUP of guys who take care of our churches, *conventos*, and of all the precious contents get in together every two years at the National Convention of Church Cultural Heritage Workers.

The third National Convention just finished at the Juan D. Nepomuceno Center for Kapampangan Studies at Holy Angel University.

There they talked shop, exchanging notes on how the preservation of our religious heritage had been going along. The most important thing that happens in each convention is that the small group of people actively preserving church patrimony reaffirms commitment to a lonely and sometimes controversial task.

Not too many people in the country know that the Catholic Church mandates preservation. The 1988 Pastor Bonus declaration by Pope John Paul II orders the clergy to safeguard church patrimony. The clergy and the religious profess strict vows of obedience. But seeing the sad state of most of our Spanish colonial churches all over the country makes me wonder whether obedience to Pastor Bonus is voluntary, rather than mandatory, for Filipino bishops and priests.

Heavyweights

The people I irreverently called "the guys" include respected heavyweights in the church preservation field.

Roman Catholic Archbishop Francesco Marchesano is a regular at these conventions. He travels from Rome to the Philippines every two years to bring Vatican encouragement to those active in the preservation of our churches. At the Vatican, he presides over the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, which works closely with Philippine clergy to assure the preservation of our severely threatened religious heritage.

Another of the "guys' is Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak of Tagbilaran. He founded and now heads the Committee for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, an official committee of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. It regulates the preservation of church structures nationwide and is the national affiliate of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church.

All bishops and priests are required to coordinate their church renovation plans with the Committee before touching any stones or hammering the first nail into their heritage buildings. Many turn a blind eye to that requirement before willfully destroying church heritage.

Fr. Milán Ted Torralba is executive secretary of the Committee for the Cultural Heritage of the Church. Church scholar Regalado Trota José is very involved in Committee programs. They are the two people to contact if a religious or a citizen like you and me has a heritage question on anything concerning churches and their contents.

The rest of the heavyweights at the conference were a large number of very committed parish priests, sisters, museum curators, conservators and historians, coming from the mountains of Bontoc down to Mati in Davao in the south.

Pope John Paul II declared in Pastor Bonus (1988) "At the Congregation for the Clergy there is a commission [Pontifical Commission for Preserving the Patrimony of Art and History] that has the duty as acting as curator for the artistic and historical patrimony of the whole church."

CHURCH art is a sacred heritage.

The commission "sees to the setting up of museums, archives and libraries, and ensures that the entire patrimony of art and history in the whole territory is properly collected and safeguarded and made available to all who have interest in it."

Cultural patrimony, it continues, means "the artistic patrimony of painting, sculpture, architecture, music placed at the service of the Church's mission, including library goods and archives of Church communities."

Culture has always gone hand in hand with evangelization, the declaration says. "These various artistic forms express the power or the human genius which, through symbolic figures, conveys a message transcending reality. If they are enlivened by spiritual inspiration, these works can help the soul in its search for the divine.

"It is a question of preserving the memory of the past and of safeguarding the visible monuments of the spirit with the continual, painstaking work of cataloguing, maintaining, restoring, preserving and protecting. Everyone with responsibility in this sector must be urged to make a priority commitment so that preserving the heritage of the faithful and of all human society receives all the attention it deserves. This patrimony belongs to everyone."

In response to Papal declarations, the participants at the conference tackled the concept of stewardship. Priests assigned to parishes all over the country take under their care the private property of the Catholic Church. But as Pastor Bonus states, the "patrimony belongs to everyone."

In the case of our Spanish colonial churches, the patrimony belongs not only to the Church but to the Filipino nation as well. With the inscription of four churches in the Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) World Heritage List as the "Baroque Churches of the Philippines," the patrimony represented by the inscribed churches is international, the patrimony of mankind.

Responsibility

Stewardship of national and international patrimony comes with responsibilities. The main responsibility of stewardship requires the handing down of patrimony from one steward to the next without making any changes to the original.

Alterations and remodeling Spanish colonial churches is absolutely not allowed since the authenticity of the structure must be preserved. Heritage structures must be preserved in a scientific manner. Getting professional advice for preservation is of primary importance.

Fr. Bernardo Ma. Pérez, OSB cited church legislation (Sacrosanctum Concilium 1963, Eucharistum Mysterium 1976, Opera Artis 1971, General Instruction of the Roman Missal 1975, and Canon Law 1983) that provides specific instructions that must be complied with in the preservation of Spanish colonial churches in the Philippines.

Fr Pérez pointed out that pastoral needs are compatible with historical conservation. He reviewed guidelines regarding the placement of altars, chairs (not thrones) for the priest in the altar area, lecterns and other elements.

Church liturgy is rich in symbols, seen in the sumptuous decoration of church interiors, carved *santos*, embroidered vestments, and other rituals like church music and processions. There is folk symbology as well.

A dying Pampanga tradition is the *panecillo de saniculas*, a cookie of *uraro* (arrowroot) and coconut milk shaped in a specially carved wooden mold with an image of San Nicolás de Tolentino at the center. The great piece of traditional folk art is symbolic of the miraculous bread associated with St. Nicholas (not to be confused with jolly St. Nick).

The *panecillo de saniculas* was blessed, stored in jars and reverently eaten after saying a prayer to the patron saint to invoke its miraculous properties for healing, protection, or to implore a family need. It was a rare example of religious faith crossing over into cuisine.

Today the mystical value of the *saniculas* is forgotten. Now the commercialized saniculas is sold in bakeries and peddled together with other *pasalubong* in bus depots without any reference to the miraculous properties older Kapampangans believed the cookie once had.

Preserving religious heritage, therefore, goes beyond preserving just the tangible architecture where rituals were held and definitely includes preserving the intangibles—rituals, religious art, music, processions, folk practices like the *saniculas*—because without them the entire Filipino religious picture cannot be seen.

Our religious picture is fading fast, but the renewed commitment among the religious who participated in the convention assured that they were increasing their vigilance.

If you want to reach the Committee for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, call its Secretariat in the Bishop's Palace of Tagbilaran, Bohol, telephone and fax (038) 4113487.

Email feedback to afvillalon@hotmail.com

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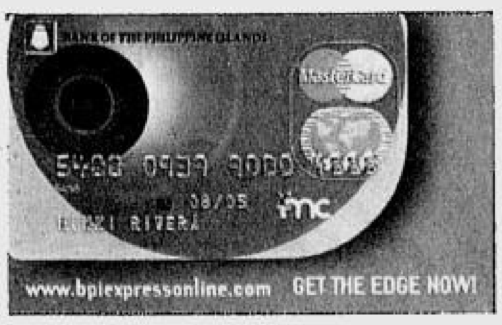
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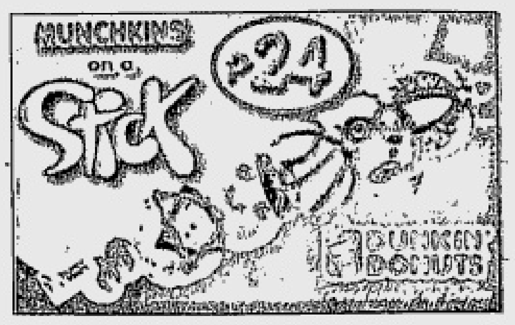

MUNCHKINS on a Stick P24 DUNKIN' DONUTS

Young C helps fight the Big C

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

Camille de la Rosa shows painting is a way of healing

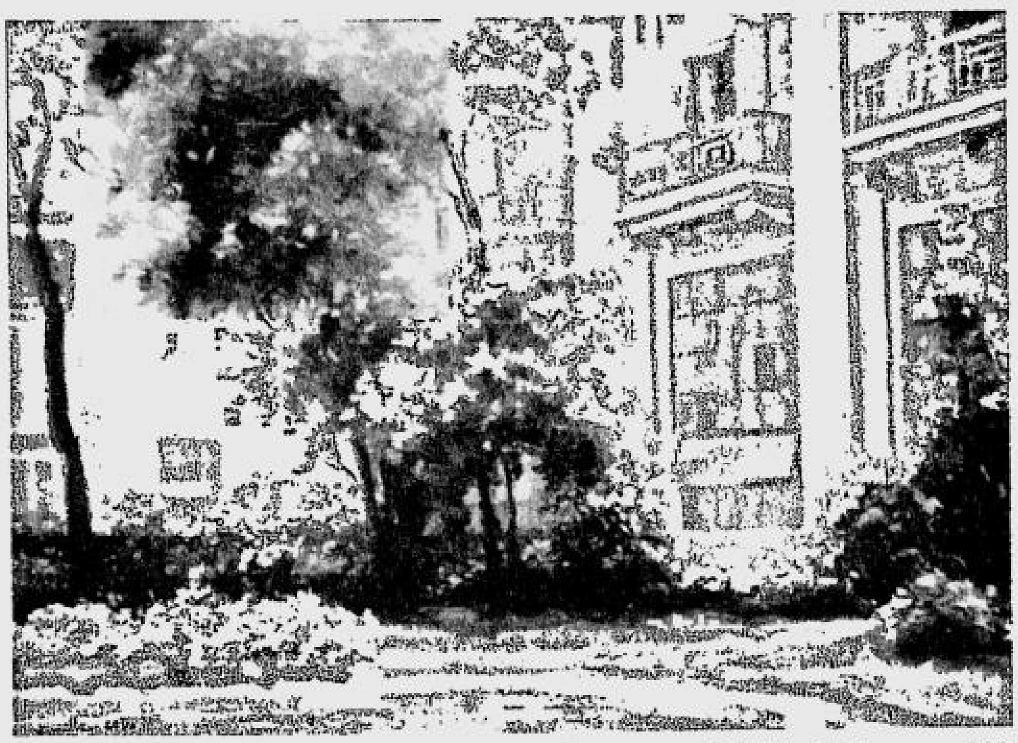
HOLISTIC means are gaining more ground nowadays. Wellness is not just the goal, but ultimately, optimal results in work or the workplace.

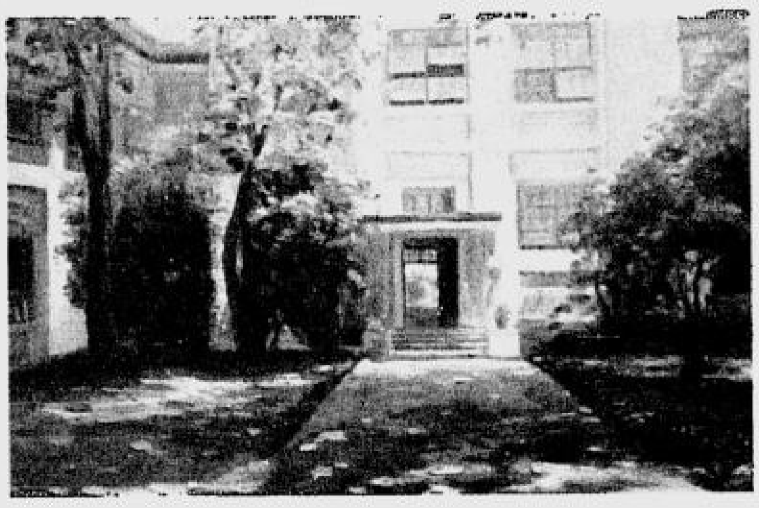
Camille de la Rosa employs such an approach, fueled as she is by a cycle of benefit that includes cancer patients. In her solo exhibit, "Glorious Gardens," which opens today, she will share a portion of the show's proceeds with the Cancer Institute of the Philippine General Hospital.

The collection includes renditions of the Healing Gardens in the PGH compound in Manila. Ensuring that greenery thrives in the pollution-choked corner of Padre Faura Street and Taft Avenue is highly laudable; but it is actually just fortuitous coincidence. The rehabilitation of existing plant life on the hospital's grounds has a greater force behind it—that of helping along the healing process.

De la Rosa saw and felt the stark difference between the terrace greenhouse and the antiseptic confines of the hospital during her vis-

YOUNG/ E3


"HEALING Garden"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Jack Salud, dot master

WITH painstaking dexterity, he dips his soft tiny brush in his palette and meticulously dabs a million delicate dots of paint on his life-size canvas. With a disciplined hand—ripened by years of unceasing practice—he controls the level of contact between the brush and the canvas just enough to produce equally sized dots while ensuring a consistent space of less than a millimeter between each.

Every square inch of Jack Salud's artwork contains 1,060 dots—five graded layers of pure colored minute dots moving from light to dark hues. This brings it to a total of 1,628,160 dots for every 4 ft. x 2.5 ft. canvas which is currently the minimum size of his artworks. It is a test of one's reflexes to mark a perfect dot if we are to consider the resiliency of a #2 sable brush and the consistency of thinned acrylic paint.

This tedious and quite repetitious process of artistic expression is indeed a genuine labor of love. Despite his seemingly dreadful mission of having to eat up every millimeter of canvas space everyday for almost a decade now, Salud says, "Witnessing this avalanche of multicolored dots gradually transform itself into an image of serenity and joy never cease to amaze me."

He developed the pointillist style naturally in the course of his evolution from a watercolorist with a fascination with the rough, granular texture of pottery.

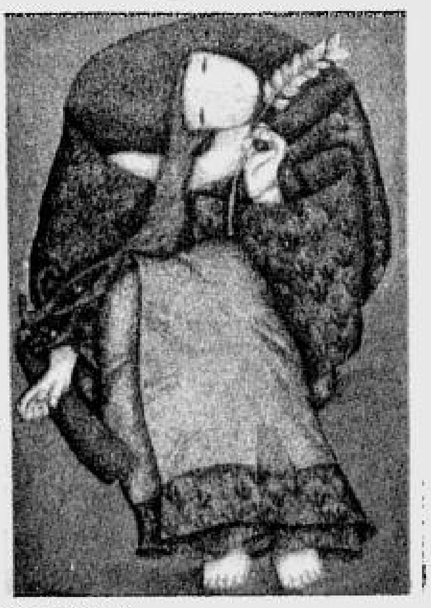
In his 11th one-man exhibit entitled "Whisper Me a Multitude of Dots," Salud interprets tranquility and silence on seven large-scale canvases.

The collection features women in peaceful solitude while leisurely admiring the intricate beauty of various leaves. "Much of my inspiration to paint women as my main subject has been greatly influenced by the events that transpired in my life this year. My wife, Kazue, has just given birth to our second daughter Megumi. God has also healed my mother, Conchita Cordon Salud, of her illness."

Salud has also chosen to paint leaves as secondary subject. "I have always been fascinated by the way leaves change its color with the passing seasons. The various hues it creates as it filters the sun's rays produces a sense of calmness. Aside from its visual appeal, to me, a leaf represents new birth and healing."

"Whisper Me a Multitude of Dots" runs from Oct. 24 to Nov. 5 at the Gallery 139 at the third level of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center. Call 7289724.

JACK Salud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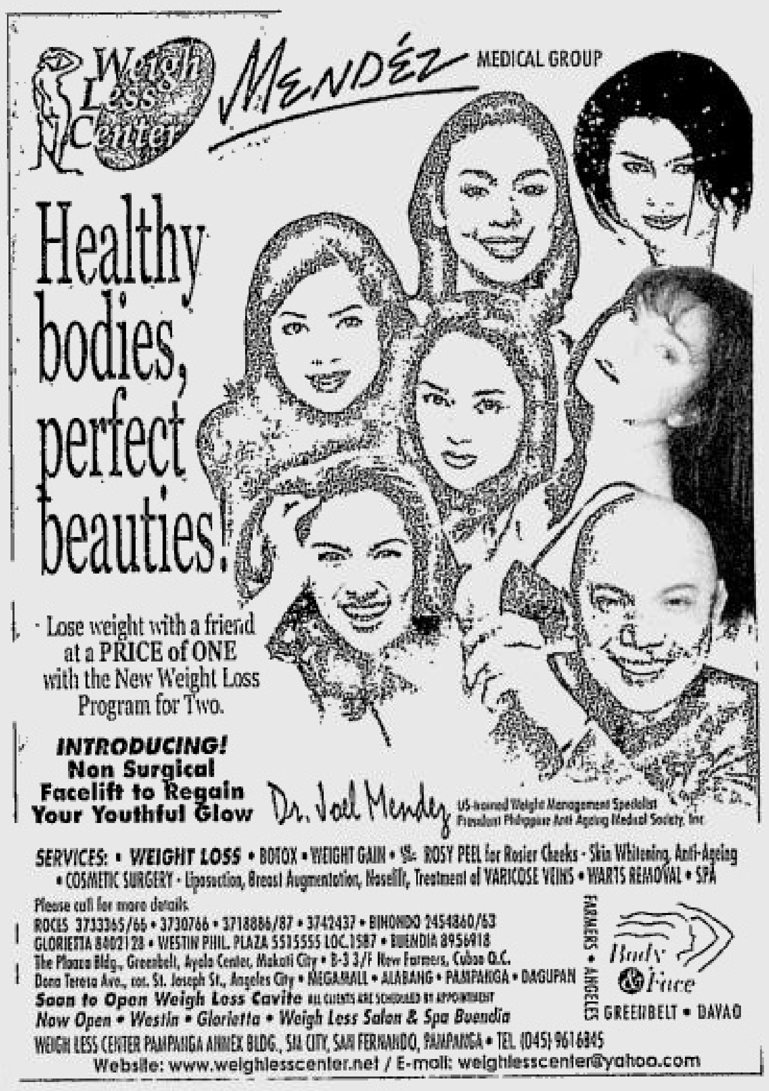
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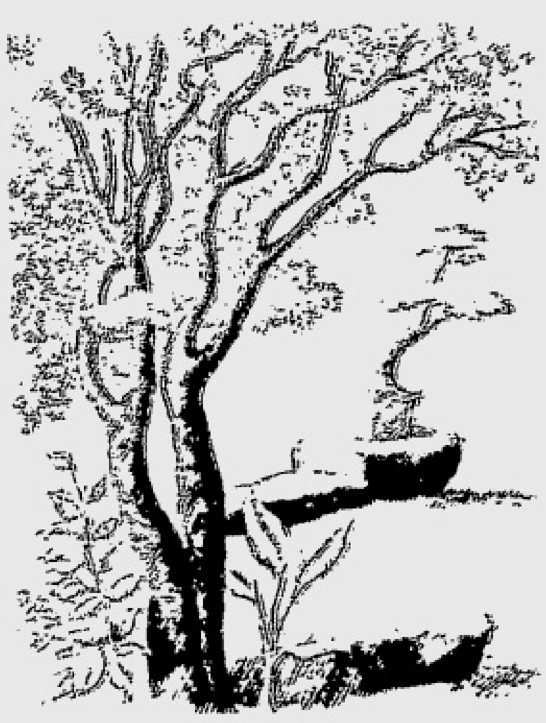
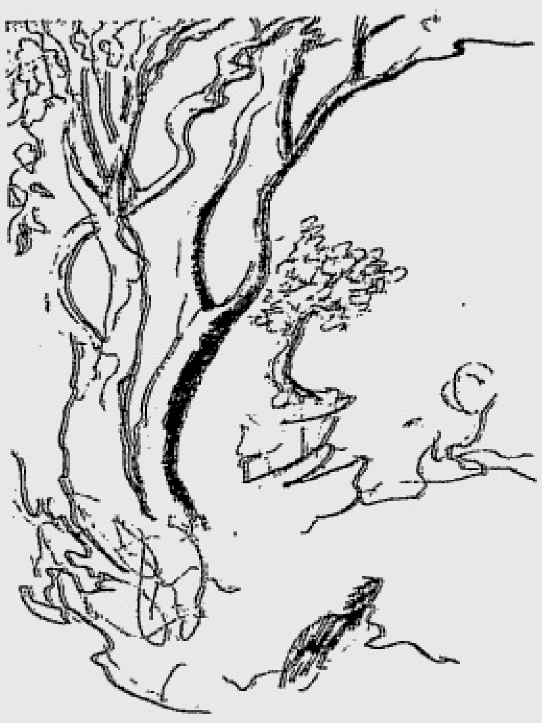
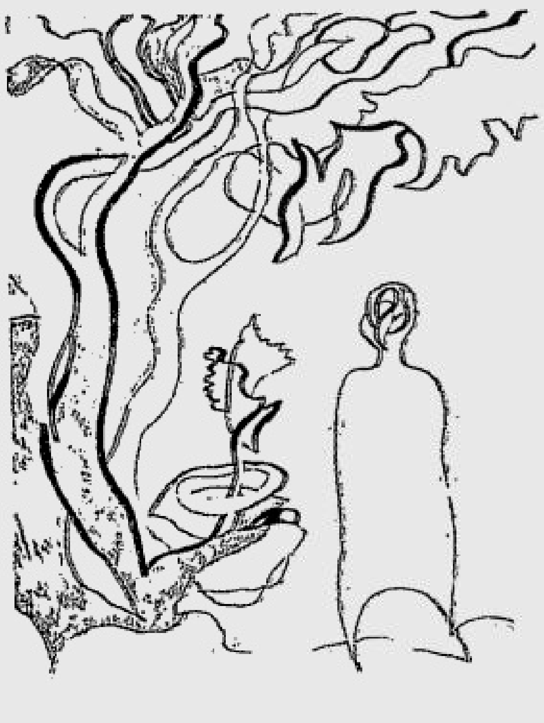


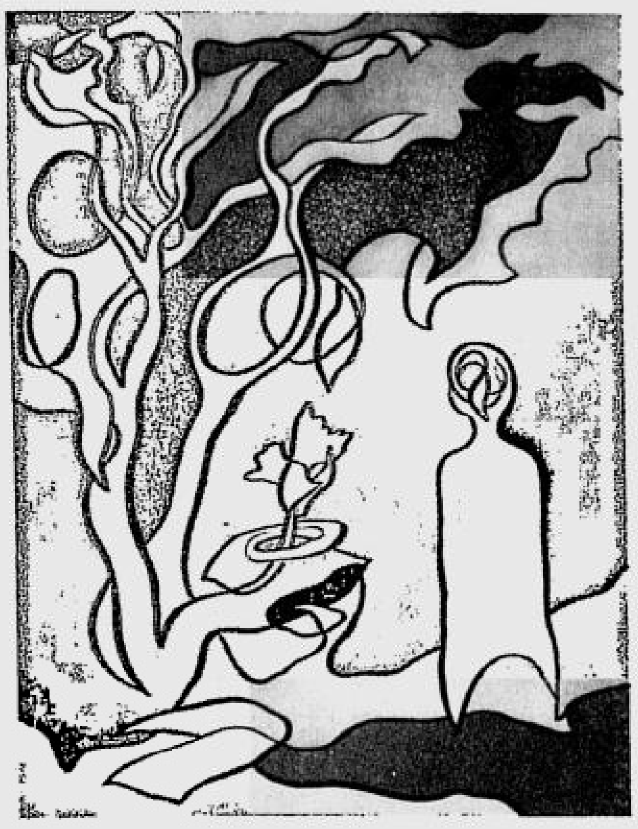
TRADITIONAL sketch of a garden in pen and ink



DRAWING undergoes minimalization, retaining only lines and shapes.



DRAWING undergoes distortion, strengthening expressive elements.



"THE NATURAL Circuit," the final piece in watercolor

From figurative to abstraction

By Constantino C. Tejero

ARTISTS would rather conceal the components that prop up their artworks. Who would want to see the pentimento underneath the smile of the "Mona Lisa"?

It's a different case with Francisco Pellicer Viri. In his desire to make a graphic analysis of abstract art, he just has to show the props.

In his show "The Reality of Abstraction," until Oct. 26 in The Crucible Gallery, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, all five pieces in watercolor on paper are accompanied by their pen-and-ink studies, each showing the gradual transformation of a particular artwork from its origin to its final form.

These sets of watercolors and drawings have been inspired by the garden-as-sculpture of artist Jerusalino Araos, with whom Viri had apprenticed for four months. He visited his mentor's gardens at UP Diliman, Fort Bonifacio in Makati, and Laurel, Batangas.

"The series involves drawing as a component of the art process," Viri explains. "A transformation in four stages takes place. The first stage is a sketch of the garden rendered in traditional representation. The second stage is a drawing where the elements undergo minimalization, retaining only lines and shapes necessary for a sound composition.

"The third stage is a drawing where the minimalized elements undergo distortion, strengthening the expressive elements of the composition. The fourth stage is the watercolor where the final level of abstract expression is completed."

What results is a fascinating study, as if one were seeing the backbone of art, in this case, the core of abstraction. The irony is, the artworks have titles more inscrutable than the contents themselves: "The Moonstruck Adventure," "The Flow of the Inner Spectrum," "The Source of the Theory," "The Undiscovered Life," "The Path of the Shaman."

The watercolor pieces are composed of washes or staining of flat, mostly primary colors.

"I don't mix colors," the artist explains. "What I do is layer color on color. Watercolor is my usual medium, as I have an affinity with it, and it's something that I've grown to like. It's a sort of a challenge to control. It has a kind of an uncontrollable nature that challenges me."

These pieces are not strictly abstract, though, as they have retained the outlines of figures or semblance thereof. In this they remind us of Paul Klee's quasi-abstracts, with their hieroglyphs resembling stick figures and outlines of buildings and human parts.

"I'm into abstracted figures," says Viri. "It's my own personalized way with abstraction. That's what everybody's doing: putting their signature on abstraction."

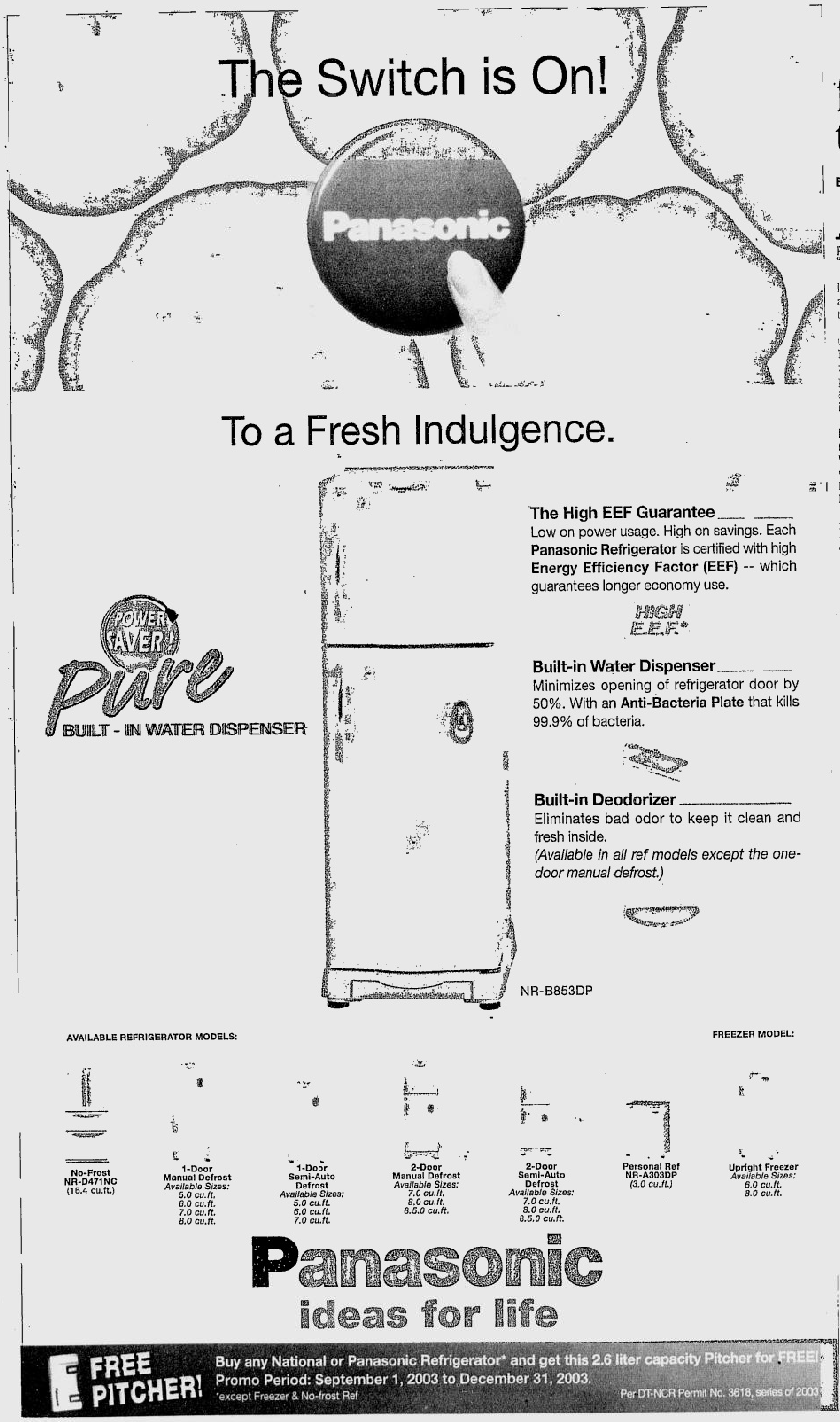
He graduated from Rhode Island School of Design, majoring in Editorial Illustration, and took up additional courses in semiotics in Brown University. His deconstruction of his art and analytic portrait of abstraction in this exhibit must be an offshoot of his studies of signs and symbolism and systems of communication.

"The works in their four stages are shown to demonstrate the aesthetic process," he says. "The stages demonstrate the development of a recognizable image toward an abstract and expressive form."

The series then is meant to be "painterly essays in art education and seeks to clarify abstract painting."

Viri has Italian, Catalan, Chinese and Filipino blood in him. He spent most of his life in the United States but has settled in the Philippines since 1994.

He hopes his exhibit will "allow a more enhanced facility to understand modern art."



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Young C helps fight the Big C

From page E1

its. As the holistic approach prescribes, pharmacotherapy is not enough. Oncologists have observed that patients who believe they could overcome their illness were those whose cancers went into remission. Thus, the horticultural treat is a way of boosting the patients' spirits, a venue blooming with life... to preserve life.

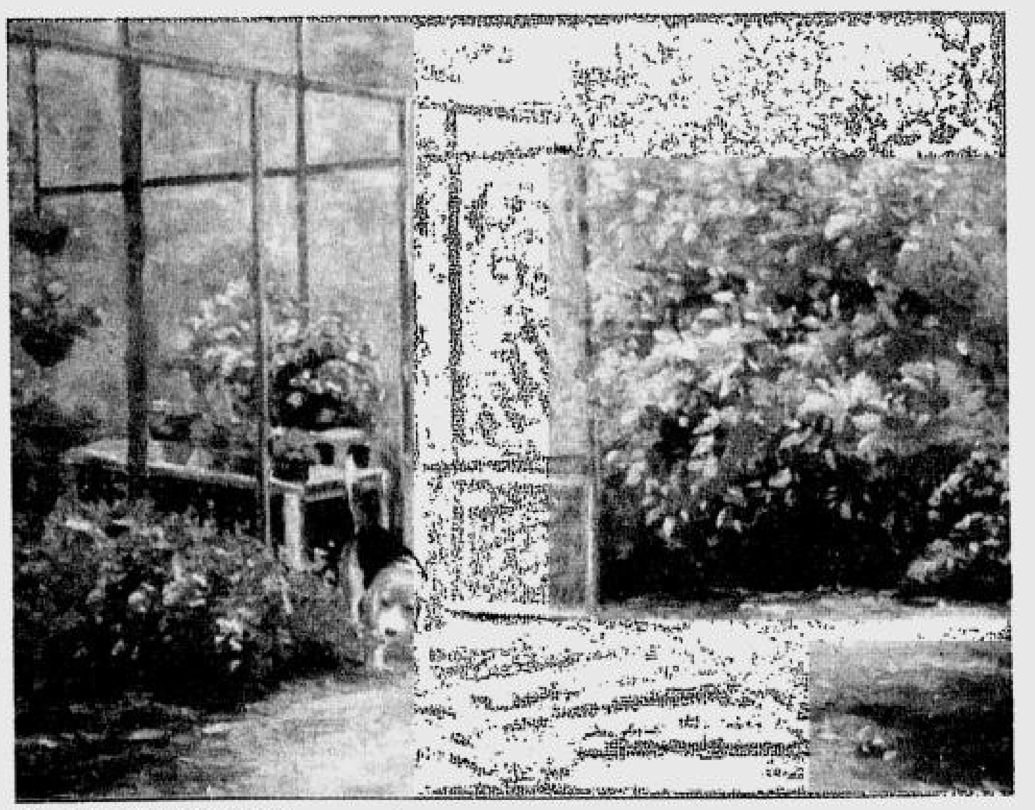
De la Rosa utilizes her impressionist style to the fullest in furthering the curative cause. Though her works show portions of the neighboring buildings, the typical veil of haze in impressionism lends softness to the scene, despite the appearance of angulars and concrete. This shimmering effect seems to mimic the hypnosis therapy used for cancer. The method urges patients to visualize themselves piloting tiny battle craft or spaceships that enter their bodies so they may zap away cancer cells. De la Rosa's paintings capture life in floral splendor, enveloping viewers in tranquility and calm, and at the same time, giving them a zest for life, essentials for battling the illness.

It is precisely the ethereal quality of De la Rosa's pieces that makes them perfect for the needs of cancer patients who shall further benefit with the "Adopt-a-Ward" project. Through it, she hopes to enjoin other artists to paint the bare walls of hospital wards. This is to bring indoors the visual therapy for patients whose conditions inhibit them from experiencing firsthand the healing atmosphere of the gardens.

Evidently, this young artist has reaped greatly from constantly seeking out places teeming with life so that she may create. The body of works also includes scenes from other private gardens. From these venues she gains the energy that sustains her artistry. She hopes to impart this energy not only to the avid admirers of her pieces but more so to those who may gain some healing from them.

The optical blend that results from her seemingly casual strokes, conscious use of vibrant color and close attention to the play of light captures the meditative ambience that the Healing Gardens were meant to ensconce the patients in. This too, affirms De la Rosa's adherence to her beloved impressionism, faithfully parlaying the two great values of her style. Perhaps in her application of the holistic, she adds a third—the value of life.

"Glorious Gardens" runs from Oct. 20-28 at Gallery 828, 4/L, Shangri-La Plaza.



"GLORY of the Garden 3"

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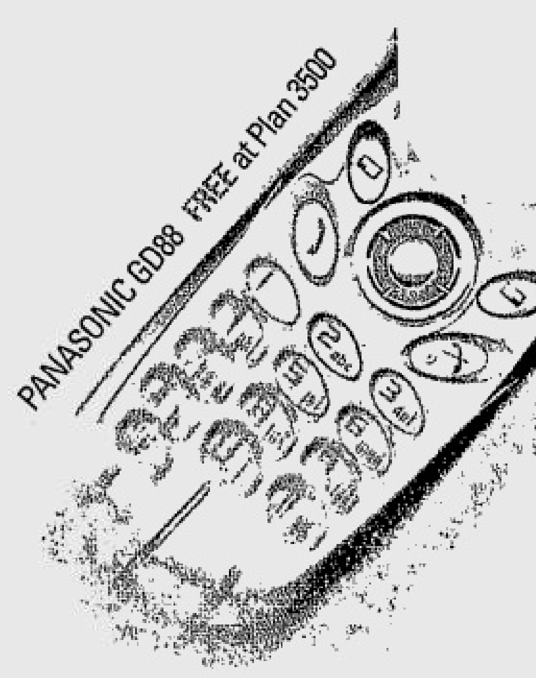

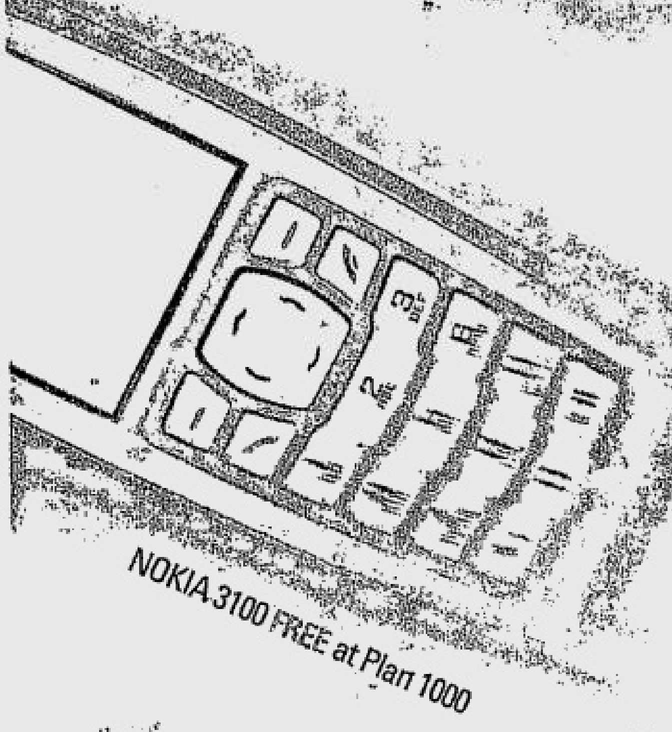

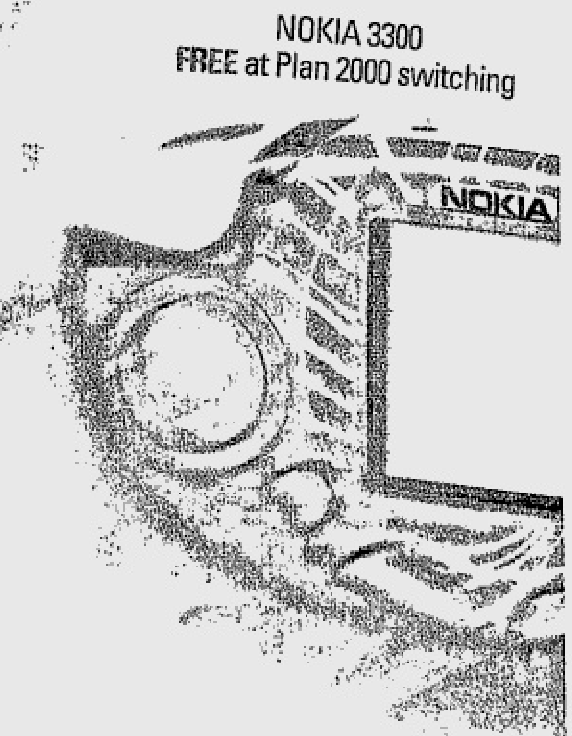

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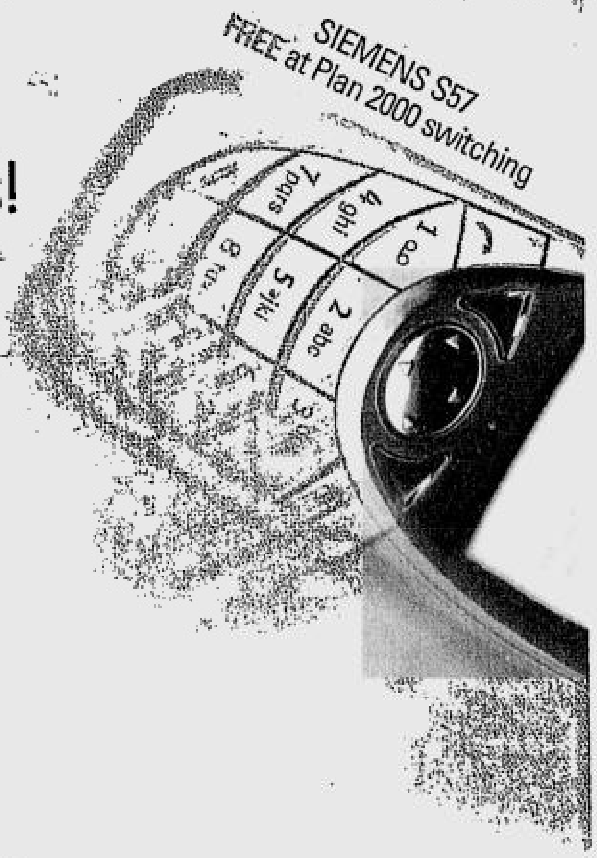

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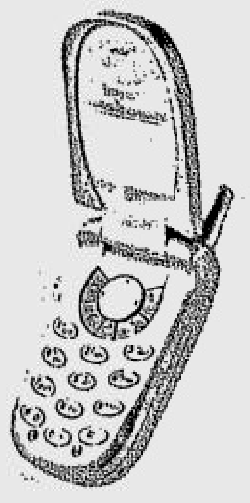

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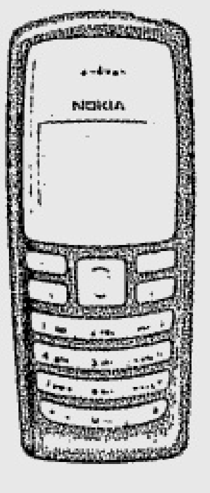

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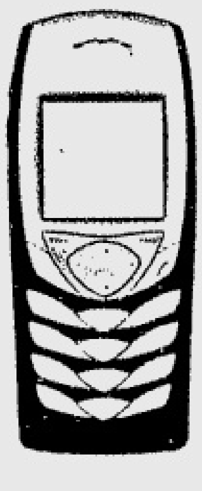

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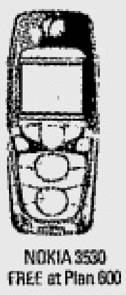

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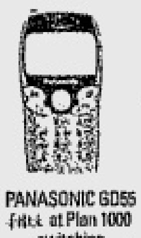

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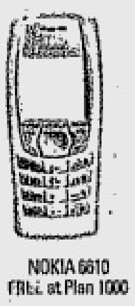

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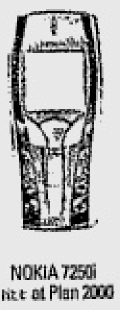

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Books

Literary work where 2 rivers meet

A Pampango translation of Huseng Batute's verse novel 'Gloria' resurrects after 70 years

By Lito B. Zulueta

ONE OF the most important literary retrievals in recent years is the discovery of an extant 70-year-old manuscript of a Pampango translation of José Corazon de Jesus' Tagalog novel in verse, "Gloria." The translation by Roman Leoncio, a largely unknown Pampango writer, was never published although De Jesus, a.k.a. Huseng Batute, the Tagalog Pushkin if there was one, had apparently given it his imprimatur based on a 1930 letter to Leoncio that was recovered along with the manuscript.

Between De Jesus's blessing and the manuscript's discovery is more than 70 years of tantalizing history, something worthy of literary sleuthing à la A.S. Byatt's "Possession."

Tagalog and Pampango literature lovers will now get to read Leoncio's work side by side with the De Jesus original in "Gloria: Roman Leoncio's Kapampangan Translation of Huseng Batute's Verse Novel, Lost and Found."

Published by the Juan D. Nepomuceno Center for Kapampangan Studies and the Holy Angel University Press, the work is edited by Ambassador Virgilio A. Reyes Jr.,

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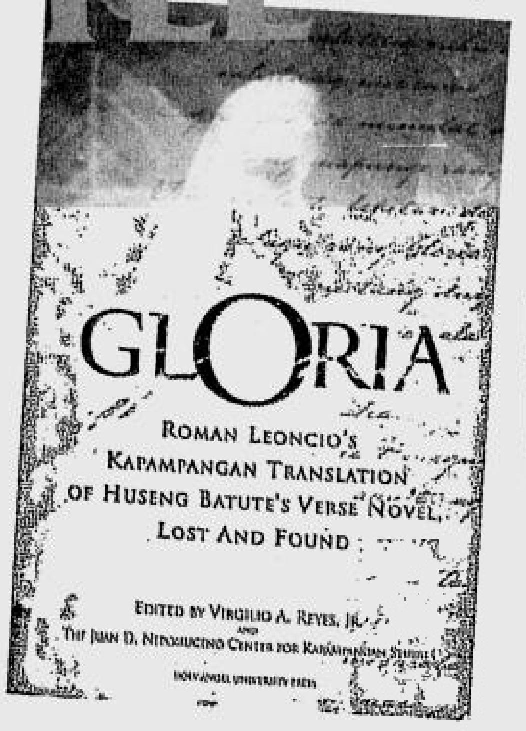
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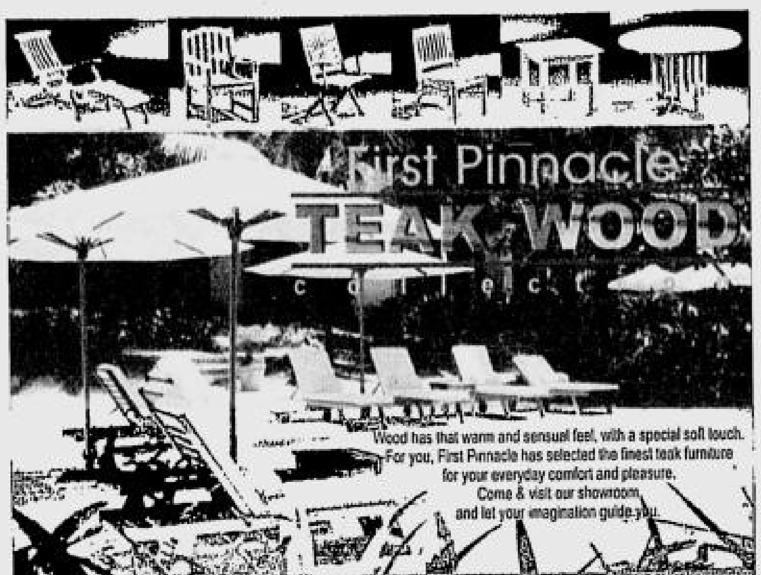
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50 years of the Asia Foundation

By F. Sionil José
Contributor

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

JIM Dalton, who helped set up the Asia Foundation office in Manila in 1953 with Bill Fleming, dropped by the other day. He is in town together with the foundation brass to celebrate the foundation's 50th anniversary of working in the Philippines.

Those 50 years are blessed with achievements, a lot of it unknown to Filipinos themselves, but meaningful to hundreds of grantees including myself.

I first heard of the foundation in 1955 when, on my first trip to the United States, I visited San Francisco and was told to visit the foundation. It was there where I met for the first time Edith Coliver, who was to be stationed in the Philippines during the crucial Marcos dictatorship.

Upon returning to Manila, I got to know the foundation people, the journalists Mariano Querol and George Cui, who were then program assistants.

Through the years, I met many of the foundation representatives in their countries of assignment, Ernie Howell in Saigon, Dick Heggie and Frank Dines in Colombo, James Stewart in Tokyo, Harry Pierson in Bangkok. My Japanese translator Jan Yamamoto was once connected with the foundation in Japan.

I remember one lunch with Harry Pierson in Bangkok, where he introduced me to several Siamese writers, one of whom became prime minister. All were excellent sources of up-to-date information on the countries where they were assigned, and because I was then setting up my journal Solidarity, they introduced me to writers and academics in the region.

I remember my discussions with James Stewart on Japanese culture. He provided me the most interesting explanation as to why contemporary Japanese fiction often depicts kinky—almost perverse—sex.

Intellectual depth

I recall the intellectual depth of the foundation's first president, Robert Blum. Hayden Williams, the foundation's retired president, held cogent views not so much on regional affairs but on American politics.

Foundation representatives keep close to the ground. Many of them are academics with extensive knowledge of the region and of the countries where they are assigned.

Dalton, who now commutes to Manila, was a Fulbright scholar in the Philippines in the '50s and an exponent of decentralization. His interest in our country continues to this very day. He often visits as consultant of American agencies and has been vastly impressed by recent developments in Thailand.

On occasion, I contributed a bit to their fund of knowledge. In the week that he arrived in Manila, for instance, the late Patrick Judge asked me to take him to Intramuros. We went there one early morning.

At the time, the cathedral was just rehabilitated but was still surrounded by squatter shacks. A big society wedding was just celebrated and the bridal parade was filing out of the church into a fleet of Cadillacs. The whole entourage was surrounded by squatters. Patrick looked at the raggedy onlookers and asked, "Why don't they throw stones?"

I told him there was no real class consciousness among Filipinos—the very poor at that moment were simply enjoying the spectacle.

Coliver stayed longest in the Philippines. On the week she arrived, she wanted to see the poorest sections of the city.

Luis Taruc and I immediately gave her a tour of Tondo. We went out of the car and walked in the vicinity of Smokey Mountain. It was there that Edith broke down and wept.

I remember Ka Luis comment, "Edith, I have no more tears to shed."

The foundation had assisted hundreds of Filipinos, in government and out, the Muslims, with fellowships, travel grants, support for innovative ideas in social reconstruction and education. Feltaf, the organization of assistance recipients, will reveal the magnitude of the foundation's reach—it is a veritable listing of Who's Who in the country.

Continuing to this very day, the foundation book program distributes thousands of textbooks and trade books from the United States to so many libraries.

In the past, the foundation provided newsprint for struggling Filipino publishers, seeds for farmers, training for teachers and efforts at improving the bureaucracy.

Private support

Like most American foundations, the Asia Foundation is assisted by private donations as well as from the foreign aid budget of the US government.

Of all the foundation representatives in Manila, I think it was Edith who made the deepest impression on me particularly and to so many others. She lived in Magallanes Village, close to where José W. Diokno also lived, and very soon, they got to know each other.

Edith's particular interest was strengthening the justice system for which reason the foundation funded legal scholarships, training programs and the exchange of jurists from all over the region and from the United States.

She introduced me to R. H. Bushner of the Council of Foreign Relations—the unofficial Department of State of the United States. The introduction resulted in two lecture tours in the United States, including several days in Washington, during which I got to know how the American Congress works, and, most of all, was impressed with the goodwill of the powerholders there toward the world's poor and dispossessed.

Edith's house became a meeting place for many of the critics of the Marcos regime. Because she became close to many of them, her house was also a sanctuary particularly during the last oppressive days of the regime.

In one of those candid moments with Edith, she asked if it was possible for her to have real friends if she was not foundation representative handing out fellowships. I assured her not to have such doubts because she was truly human and compassionate.

I was at her deathbed in San Francisco two years ago, and her passing, it seemed to me then, also meant the passing of an era.

When the Asia Foundation started 50 years ago, we were not more than 25 million—today, we are more than 80 million. Institutions grow old; the foundation is now manned by a new generation which, I hope, still brims with the enthusiasms and the compassion of the old guard like Edith Coliver, Robert Blum, Jim Dalton.

The sad truth about us is that we have not really imbibed the virtues of our former colonizer. The democratic ethos we nurture here is fragile if not hollow—it lacks the essence, the civic strength and the capacity to dignify the profits of capitalism.

Where does the sense of purpose, of nation, of basic decency that suffuse public life in America come from? How does integrity develop? Maybe, these are questions the Filipinos and their foundation friends need to ask.

Lopez Museum holds lecture on Filipino and American studies

NOTED scholar on Asia-America studies Oscar V. Campomanes will lecture on "Toward a Filipino-American Aesthetics and Politics" on Oct. 25, 2 p.m. at Lopez Museum.

The lecture is part of the "Zero In: Skin Surface" series of exhibits, a collaboration of Lopez Museum with Ayala Museum, Ateneo Gallery and Museo Pambata.

Campomanes is a member of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies and a professorial lecturer at the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and UST Graduate School. He has written several articles on Filipinos in the US and their literature of exile. Call 6312417.

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From page F1

envoy-designate to Pretoria.

It was Reyes who recovered the manuscript in the early 1990s from an old house on Pi Y Margall St. in Sampaloc, Manila near University of Santo Tomas.

As a foreign service officer, Reyes would take the street en route to the foreign office and admire the old house that "symbolized an era of more grace and elegance than our own." He learned one day to his dismay that the house would be torn down.

Checking it, he found a perfect model of the house, but whose doll-size reproductions of the furniture the heirs of the family had taken to the United States. Along with the model house, however, Reyes got a bonus: a battered suitcase where he found antique clothes and manuscripts of Leoncio, who belonged to the family that owned the house.

Among the old papers he found the Pampango translation, De Jesus's letter of permission, and emendations by Isaac Gomez, a well-known Pampango writer at that time who appeared to have examined and edited the translation.

The road to publication was long and winding since Reyes does not know Pampango; he was also posted in a number of foreign missions. Meantime, the Holy Angel University had established its Kapampangan Studies Center in honor of the university's founder, Juan D. Nepomuceno. When Reyes asked the center to collaborate with him, the school's president, Bernadette Nepomuceno, showed enthusiasm.

It was the center's experts—Robby Tantingco and Lino L. Dizon, along with other Pampanga studies experts such as Lourdes H. Vidal of Ateneo de Manila University and Albina Pecson Fernandez of UP—who helped unravel the manuscript and prepare it for publication.

Romantic

"Gloria" is the romantic story of a woman who seems destined for a life of misery. Abandoned as an infant by her disgraced mother, she ends up in the care of foster parents who, finding a note from the original parent requesting she be named after Gloria (because she was ostensibly born on Sabado de Gloria), name her thus.

When she becomes a young woman, her parents banish her after learning of her unsavory provenance. By some dint of good luck, she wanders into the company of her true father who, childless, takes her as his daughter.

Meanwhile, she falls in love with her childhood friend, Roberto, while enamoring a bandit leader. The rivalry gets heated, the bandit forces the issue, and Gloria seems fated for more of the same inglorious times.

It is easy to see the story as the product of its moment and milieu. Its tenor is Tagalog romanticism, its perspective quite masculine. It contains the stock clichés of soap opera: the disgraced woman; a daughter's search for her "sinful" parental roots and her identity; the childhood sweetheart; the traditional villain in the guise of a bandit (a stock figure in Tagalog cinema and popular culture); the banishment to the nunnery à la Maria Clara; the death-by-romance ending; and the reunion in heaven.

Pecson Fernandez, in fact, has a field day training her feminist guns at the novel's macho "gaze," although her use of Susan Brownmiller's notoriously shrill perspective on women as perennially raped and abused is heavy-handed.

Despite the novel's datedness, its utter poetry shines through. Huseng Batute's narrative skill is evident particularly in suspenseful passages. His lyrical gifts serve him well in providing the reader with the feel of the setting where Gloria conducts her universe of adversities.

As for the Pampango translation, Vidal seems satisfied. She, in fact, expresses preference over the unedited manuscript, the original version of Leoncio before the blue-penciling by Gomez: "In my opinion, he [Gomez] did not have the right to mangle the work of another poet."

Propitious

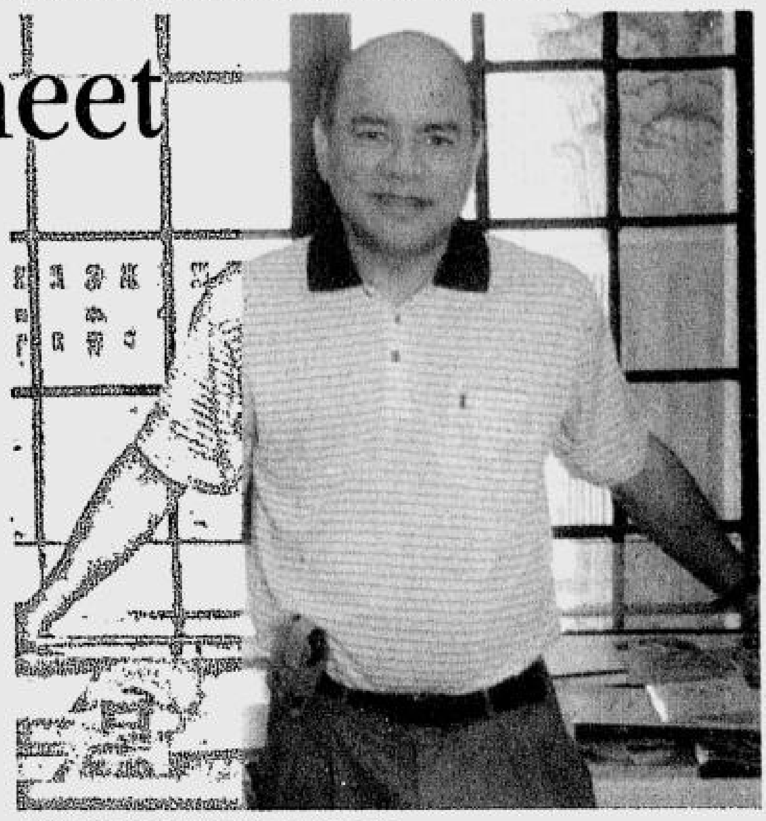
The publication of the translation and the original comes at a most propitious time. Structuralists and semioticians may read something teasing in the circumstances surrounding the publication of the translation of a novel with "Gloria" on its title about a damsel perennially in distress at a time when the Philippine president sports the same name and has just welcomed the world's super grand knight always on the chase of terrorists and bandits, whether real or mere windmills.

But without doubt, the real significance is that a publication long in the limbo of Black Saturday is coming into the Easter Sunday of full literary daylight.

More important, the book presents a gem of a verse novel in the two allied tongues of Tagalog and Pampango. Nearly always allies through history, the Tagalogs (*taga-ilog* or "people of the river") and the Pampangos (people of the *pampang* or "riverbank") issue from the same physical and social geography—the river that irrigates, replenishes, and provides much of the vitality and color of the land and the people around it.

The publication of "Gloria" reaffirms the riverine truth: Nothing can dry up the pulsating sacred fountain that links Tagalogs and Pampangos together, twin hearts that perennially kneel at life and art's all-generous waters.

"Gloria: Roman Leoncio's Kapampangan Translation of Huseng Batute's Verse Novel, Lost and Found" will be formally launched on Oct. 23 at 6 p.m. at the Department of Foreign Affairs.



AMBASSADOR Virgilio A. Reyes Jr.

Aquinas University holds writing workshop

THE AQUINAS University of Rawis, Legazpi City will hold the first-ever Bicol-wide creative arts seminar-workshop on Oct. 21-23. Handling the program are resident writers and artists of the Center for Creative Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas.

The workshop is open to the public but offers only 50 slots on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration fee is P1,000.

Speakers and seminar handlers include writer-critics Ophelia Dimalanta, Cirilo Bautista, Ferdinand Lopez, Lourd de Veyra and Ramil Gulle.

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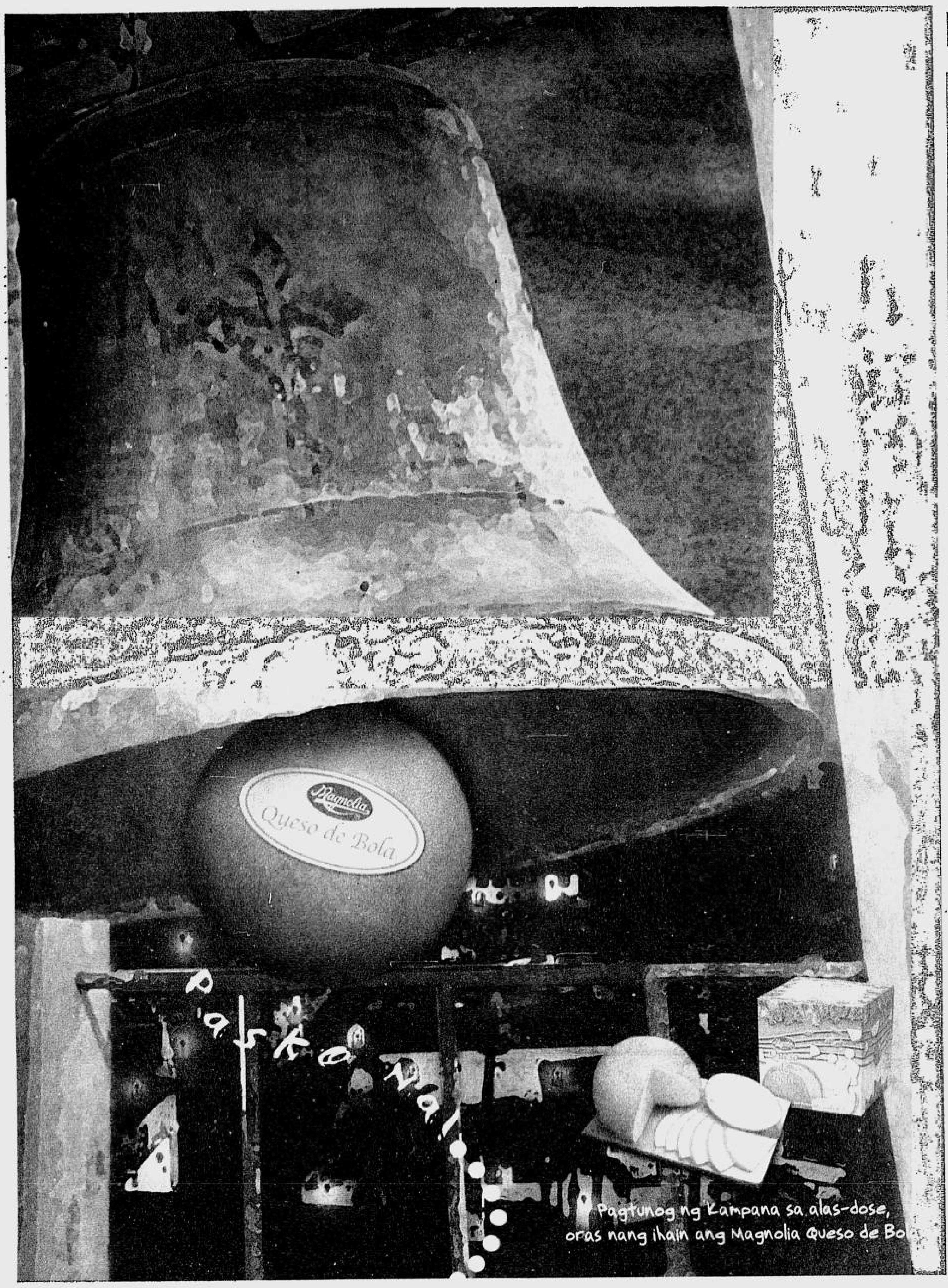
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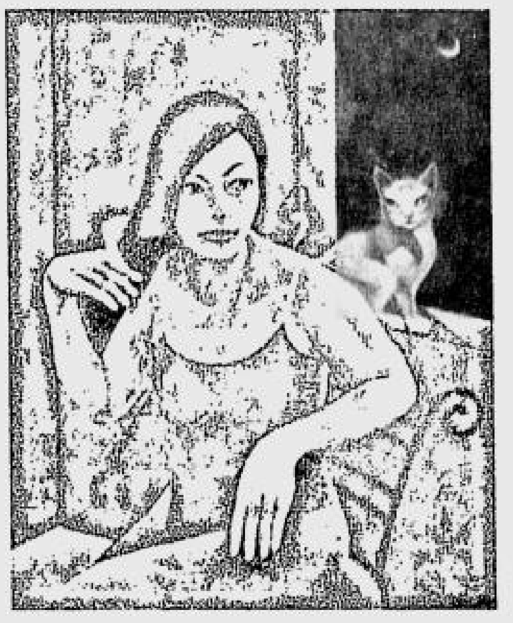


"QUARTER Moon"

Bayani Ray Alcala's 'lunars' at Joaquin

BAYANI Ray Alcala will hold his first major one-man exhibit, "La Pliene Lune," (Full Moon), on Oct. 23 at Galerie Joaquin (371 P. Guevarra St., Addition Hills, San Juan).

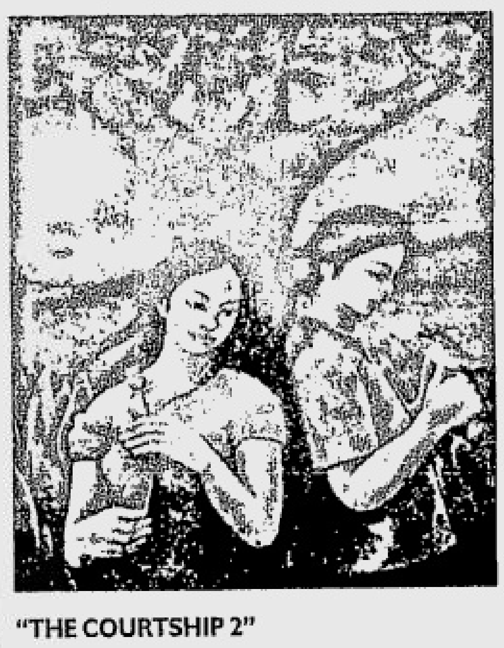
Alcala chose the title "Full Moon" because his subjects' action occur under the moon.

A product of the University of Santo Tomas College of Fine Arts and Design, Alcala has won the Shell and Metrobank contests.

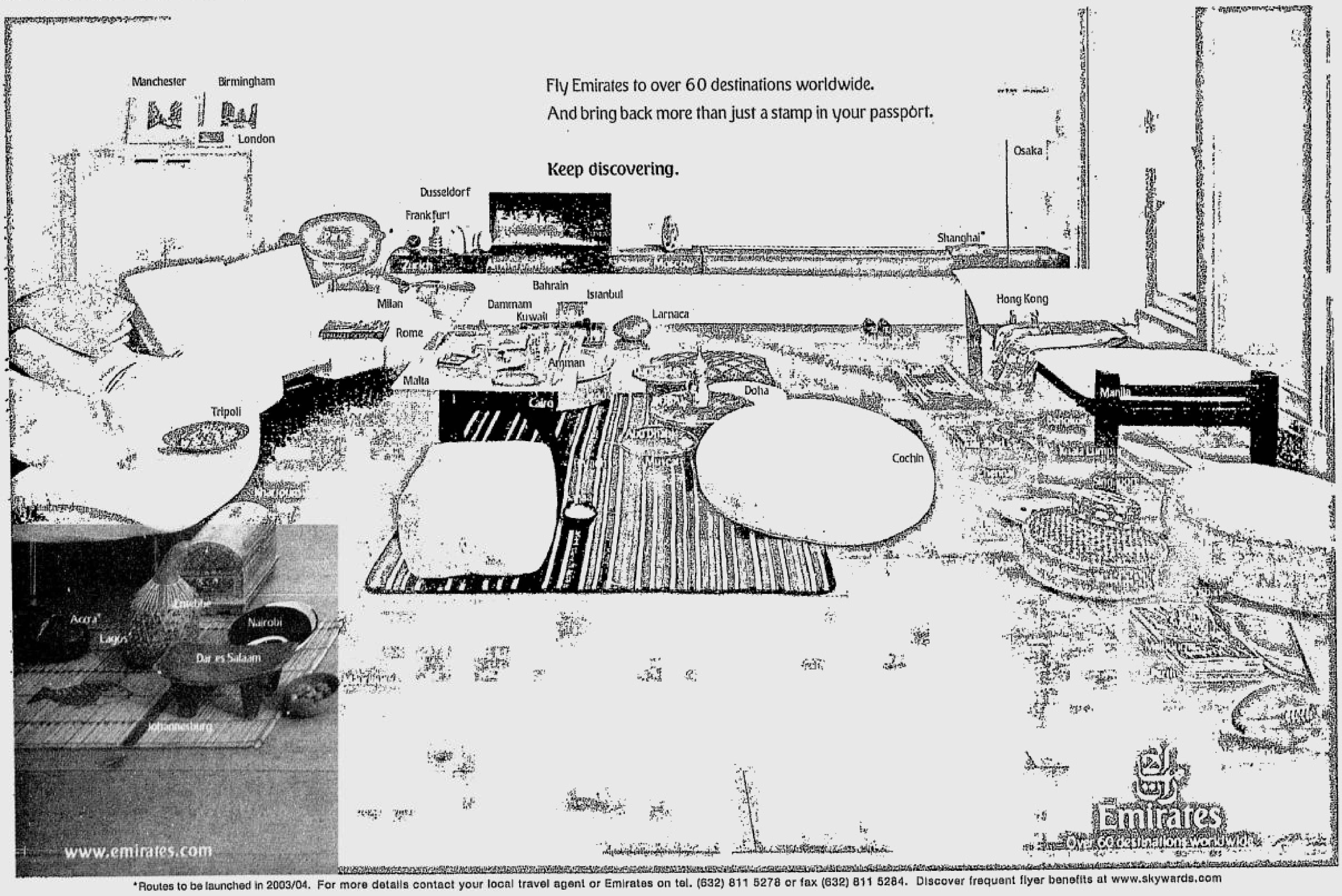
Alcala's favorite subjects are musicians, butterflies, cats and women.

Alcala has done work for sculptor Angelo Baldemor. His foreign influences are Picasso, Chagall and Dali. His local influences are Baldemor, Marcel Antonio and Dominic Rubio.

Call 7239418. The exhibit runs until Nov. 10.



"THE COURTSHIP 2"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